Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-235
Thursday
9 December 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Agree on Talks in Taba 12 Dec

TA0912113793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat met in Granada, Spain for about 75 minutes. No date was set for a Rabin-'Arafat summit, but it was agreed to resume the negotiations in Taba next Sunday [12 December]. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports from Granada:

[Begin recording] [Kouts] Israeli sources say the talk was not only not easy but even tough. The meeting lasted 75 minutes—30 minutes longer planned—in a meeting hall overlooking the beautiful patio of Hotel Parador. The director general of UNESCO and the Spanish foreign minister, who entered the room twice, were asked to leave and wait outside. At this point, it seems there will not be a meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat.

At the end of their meeting, Peres and 'Arafat met the press. Peres said: We had an opportunity to assess the current situation. All of us, including Chairman 'Arafat, want to conclude the various sets of talks currently under way between PLO and Israeli representatives. They agreed to meet at the beginning of next week in Taba, and they will stay there uninterruptedly in order to finalize the negotiations. We all regret any form of terror and wish for understanding and a historical change in our relations. Peres went on to say: I conveyed to the chairman the Israeli Government's feeling that the Oslo agreement signed at the White House will be a real and historic success, but we must yet overcome several disagreements.

'Arafat said: It was a very important talk, particularly as we are approaching 13 December, the date we agreed on. We are trying to remove all the obstacles from the negotiating table in Cairo so that we may get to an exact and speedy implementation, as he put it, of the agreement. We also discussed several other details, 'Arafat said. Asked whether he will confer with Rabin soon, he said:

['Arafat, in English] I'm ready, you know. It depends on the Israeli side, not on me. I'm ready to have any [word indistinct].

[Peres, in English] I think that the prime minister of Israel will try to do whatever is needed and possible to shorten the time of the talks. Today it wasn't a negotiation; it was simply an exchange of views. We compared notes, and we would like to enable the two groups of the negotiators to complete their jobs, and whenever there will be a need for a meeting, a meeting will take place.

[Kouts translates the above and continues] Peres went on to say: Both sides are trying to wind up the talks before 13 December, because both we and the PLO want to abide by the timetable. When one gets down to details, however, one encounters more and more problems. 'Arafat added: What is important is that we spoke candidly and put all the problems on the table, and I hope we will continue to do our best to attain an exact and fair implementation of the agreement. I still hope something will happen on 13 December.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who sat in on the meeting, confirmed to me that he met with Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer two night ago in Tunis. He would not elaborate on the contents of their meeting, but noted that 'Arafat may meet Ben-Eli'ezer tonight in Tunis. According to 'Abd-Rabbuh, it is clear that Mr. Ben-Eli'ezer represents the prime minister and the Israeli Government's position. [end recording]

'Arafat, Eli'ezer Discuss Obstacles

NC0912120293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, 9 Dec (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with Israeli Housing Minister Benyamin Eli'ezer in Tunis early this morning. The meeting was held upon 'Arafat's return from Germany and before his departure for Granada, where he will take part in a seminar organized by UNESCO.

According to the sources, 'Arafat and Eli'ezer discussed for over two hours the obstacles hindering the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to implement the Declaration of Principles and bring about the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and ways to eliminate them.

The Israeli housing minister arrived in Tunis yesterday.

No details are available on 'Arafat's meeting with Eli'ezer, since all Palestinian officials refuse to make any statement on the issue. The PLO has shrouded Eli'ezer's movements and his meetings with Palestinian officials in secrecy.

The Israeli minister is expected to leave Tunis for home later today.

Protocols on Gaza-Jericho Accord Exchanged

NC0812140693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—The draft protocols on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement were exchanged today between the Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and the Israeli delegation led by Deputy Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq.

Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have stated that the two draft protocols contain the points of agreement and the points of disagreement identified by the two sides during their meetings, which lasted about two months, through the expanded Gaza-Jericho Committee in Taba, the subcommittee in Cairo, and the Security and Civilian Affairs Committees in Cairo and al-'Arish.

This step is within the framework of the efforts to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, obstacles which could have led to the postponement of the implementation of the agreement for several weeks beyond its scheduled date of 13 December, which the Palestinian side has rejected.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian-Israeli Security Committee has continued its meeting in Cairo for the fourth day running with a view to completing the discussion of several topics still under dispute, including the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Jericho and with Egypt and Jordan. Israel wants to maintain control of the international border because it is responsible for external security.

The Security Committee will also discuss a timetable for the release of an estimated 13,000 Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons and detention camps.

Informed sources have confirmed that 3,000 Palestinian detainees will be released before 13 December, the date set for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

Islamic Affairs

PAIC Reappoints al-Turabi, Approves Amendments

EA0712155093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Dec (SUNA)—The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, PAIC, unanimously decided to reappoint Dr. Hasan al-Turabi as secretary general for a new term.

The conference approved in its final session here Saturday [4 December] amendments in PAIC organizational structures which stipulated the formation of a general congress and a 500-member council of trustees and the cancellation of the general secretariat.

The council of trustees, which will assume the tasks of the canceled secretariat general, comprises 14 members from Arab states; 10 from western and northern Asia and East and Central Asia, five from African states north of the Sahara, North and South American and the Caribbean states, 6; West and Central Africa, 5; East and Southern Africa, 5; and Europe, 5.

The general congress should meet once a year and the council of trustees once every six months. As to the financing of the conference it has been decided that donations shall be collected from the conference members and Arab and Muslim people and institutions.

Islamic Conference Issues Final Recommendations

JN0812155093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 33

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Khartoum—The Popular Arab and Islamic Conference [PAIC] has reiterated its adherence to the constants of the Palestinian issue which are represented by the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, establishing their free and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, sovereignty, and to struggle in order to restore their land. The conference, which concluded its meetings in the Sudanese capital on Saturday [4 December], announced, in its final recommendations, its rejection of the Gaza-Jericho accord because it contradicts the principled stands of the nation vis-a-vis the sacred Arab and Islamic cause. The conference reaffirmed its support for the blessed intifadah of the Palestinian people and for the unity of this militant people on the path of jihad and resistance.

PAIC called on the Arabs and Muslims to champion the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly by boycotting American and British commodities for one week, launching a donation campaign in accordance with which every individual in all the Arab and Islamic countries will donate $1 for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The PAIC also called for imposing an economic boycott on Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia and asked the United Nations to exclude the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the arms ban resolution imposed on the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

With regard to Somalia, the PAIC called on all Arab governments and people to expeditiously send relief aid to the Somali people, to help them achieve stability, and to continue supporting them in order to rehabilitate their infrastructure and to launch new construction and development projects.

With regard to Afghanistan, PAIC praised the victory of the Afghan people and their restoration of their freedom through jihad. It called on all mojahedin factions to stop internecine fighting in order to spare Muslim blood and to move toward reconciliation in order to establish the state of Islam. The PAIC decided to form a committee chaired by the secretary general to facilitate the achieving of reconciliation. It also called on Islamic people and countries to give all kinds of support to rebuild and develop what was destroyed by war.

The PAIC also called for championing Sudan, resisting all attempts of blockade and isolation against Sudan, confronting the unjust media campaign against it, and challenging any decision aimed against Sudan regardless of the states and organizations that are behind it.

Regarding Iraq, the PAIC praised the Iraqi people's steadfastness and firmness in facing the aggression and the iniquitous blockade as well as their adherence to the nation's doctrine. The PAIC condemned the imperialist

onslaught on this heroic people aimed at inflicting difficulties on the children of this people and depriving them of the basic humanitarian needs in terms of food and medicine. It also called on the Arab and Islamic countries to take the initiative and lift the unjust siege imposed on Iraq.

The PAIC called on the brothers in Yemen, who were among the first founders of this conference, to achieve the unity of the Arab and Islamic nation, to adhere to a sound course in order to bypass passing differences. It recommended that a delegation be formed from the conference to go to Yemen to help accommodate viewpoints and reach an agreement that will safeguard the unity of the Yemeni people and maintain a fraternal and cordial spirit among its sons.

The PAIC also called for supporting the Lebanese people in their steadfastness in the face of the aggression against their country.

The conference denounced Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and called for immediate withdrawal from all the occupied territory of this republic.

The conference also called on the Government of India to implement the UN resolutions related to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to safeguard the rights of the Muslim people there.

The PAIC announced that it will work honestly to continue the Islamic-Christian dialogue within the Arab and Islamic homeland and throughout the world.

Concluding its recommendations, the conference denounced U.S. President Clinton's provocation of the Muslim's feelings by receiving the person who insulted Islam and the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him.

Palestinian Affairs

'Secret' Agreement Supplements Said Published

TA0812174293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Palestinians opposing the peace process today published what they call the secret supplements to the Declaration of Principles which, they claim, show how the PLO has surrendered to the Israeli Government. The document that includes five supplements was signed by the PLO and representatives of the Israeli Government. Our correspondent Moti Amir got hold of the document, and here is his report:

The document includes five supplements entitled: Political Cooperation; Security Affairs; Economic Cooperation; Communications; and a special supplement. It is believed that the opposition to the peace process published this document today to attack the PLO leadership and condemn it for what it calls its surrender to Israel. It should be pointed out that the existence of the document has not yet been confirmed by an official Israeli element.

Following are some of the main points in the document, in brief:

The first supplement says that Israel may not honor the Declaration of Principles if its security or interests are harmed, or if riots take place in Israel in response to its implementation. The first clause states that the PLO pledges to protect the lives of the Jewish settlers in the territories, and in another clause it pledges not to establish a political regime and not to issue a Palestinian currency or passports during the transitional period.

The military supplement says, among other things, that the PLO has pledged not to establish a Palestinian army, and that the arms and the pay of the Palestinian policemen will be handed out by the Israeli Police Ministry through the self-government. The PLO further pledged not to allow activities in the territories of political parties or organizations which would call for the elimination of Israel or urge attacks against the settlers.

According to the economic supplement, the PLO is allowed to build an airport in the Gaza Strip, probably using the al-Qubbah British-built airstrip. It stresses that the Israeli shekel will remain legal tender in the territories during the autonomy period.

The supplement on communications says that the parties agree to stop broadcasting propaganda against each other, and work together against extremists on both sides who oppose the peace process.

The special supplement contains an interesting clause according to which Israel may hold a referendum in the territories to find out whether the population is interested in establishing an independent state, a confederation with Israel, or a confederation with Jordan. In the last clause, the PLO pledges not to intervene or act in any way should war between Israel and an Arab state break out.

It is worth stressing again that the publication of this document, the bottom of which leaves a space for the PLO and Israel's signatures, was probably aimed at condemning the PLO leadership. It is probable that the document is one of the drafts of the Declaration of Principles that may have been rejected by the parties.

Tunisian Paper Details 'Draft Constitution'

NC0812224293 Paris AFP in English 2217 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, Dec 7 (AFP)— The president of a hoped-for Palestinian state will serve no more than two terms of five years each under a draft constitution, a Tunisian newspaper reported Wednesday [8 December].

AL-RA'Y AL-'AM said the constitution also stipulated the separation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers, provided for freedom of religion and speech, and allowed for political and religious parties.

The paper said it had acquired the 30-page Arabic text of the "temporary" draft constitution, to be implemented during the five-year transition autonomy period in the occupied territories.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AM quoted PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah as saying the committee took a first look at the draft constitution for the future interim authority, tasked with managing autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank, according to a PLO-Israeli accord signed in Washington on September 13.

The statement said the constitution was based on laws adopted by the Palestine National Council, the parliament-in-exile, in the 1988 proclamation of the "independent state of Palestine".

The laws guarantee "democracy, pluralism, human rights, the national Palestinian identity, equality between men and women and the respect of institutions," the statement said.

The Executive Committee, chaired by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, said it was still studying the issue of forming a Palestinian National Authority Council.

According to the Washington accord, Israeli troops are supposed to start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho on Monday. But there is the prospect of a two-week delay.

Christopher 'Warning' to 'Arafat on Aid Reported

JN0912110293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Dec 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The United States has implicity served notice on Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat not to expect international assistance unless he revamps some of the economic bodies he has set up to supervise the reconstruction informed sources said Wednesday [8 December].

It was the first known account of any Western official openly taking up the contentious issue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, who is accused by some of his own people of favouring loyalists rather than qualified experts while making key appointments in the economic sector.

The warning was conveyed to Mr. 'Arafat by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their meeting in Amman Monday, the sources said.

Mr. 'Arafat, long known for his skilful manoeuvrings, replied that the demand constituted "political interference" in the affairs of the Palestinians and was not acceptable, the sources said.

The PLO chairman also questioned an assertion by Mr. Christopher that the U.S. stand was supported by Europe, they said.

"Let me have one European statement to this effect," Mr. 'Arafat was quoted as telling Mr. Christopher during the meeting, held at the American ambassador's residence.

Both Mr. Christopher and Mr. 'Arafat referred to the issue in a post-meeting press conference on Monday, but their comments gave little insight into what transpired during the talks.

"Credible structures to receive the assistance need to be put in place, and the chairman enlightened me about the structures that he has been setting up to receive and handle the assistance," Mr. Christopher said. "So it was a useful meeting, particularly in this respect."

"It was useful as far as exchange of views was concerned, but little else in advancing 'Arafat's quest to get the flow of aid moving," said a senior PLO official.

Mr. 'Arafat, in his comments at the press conference, said: "I would also like to thank Secretary Christopher for his efforts regarding his work with World Bank and the donors who are trying to help the Palestinian people to start their new lives and to build infrastructure that was totally destroyed over the years.

"The meeting was useful, positive and fruitful."

An international donors' conference held on Oct. 1, two weeks after Israel and the PLO signed their groundbreaking autonomy agreement in Washington, pledged more than $2 billion in two years to help the economic development of the occupied territories.

But no allocations have been made yet since the composition of a Palestinian economic development council, headed by Mr. 'Arafat himself and succeeded by Faruq Qaddumi, the Palestinian "foreign minister," is not acceptable to the donors, who are insisting on professional and qualified economic experts to do the job.

The World Bank, which will coordinate the assistance, has not released an urgent tranche of $50 million in loan as "startup" funds for the PLO, diplomats said.

The PLO chairman left Jordan immediatley after Monday's meeting and turned up in Germany the next day on a prearranged visit as part of a globetrotting he has undertaken after signing the Sept. 13 autonomy accord with Israel (Germany was the 18th country that Mr. 'Arafat visited since Sept. 13).

During his visits to European countries, Mr. 'Arafat has been repeatedly complaining of "indirect political pressure" and "efforts to meddle with Palestinian political independence," diplomats say.

It was not immediately known if any of the European leaders was sympathetic to his grievances and willing to open the taps of assistance in the present structure of the bodies he has set up.

Informed sources in Paris, where the donors met again on Nov. 1 and where the PLO and Israel are discussing economic cooperation, said European countries indeed wanted more PLO "accountability" but had not made the point forcefully to Mr. 'Arafat.

No American sources were available to confirm the account of the 'Arafat-Christopher meeting, but PLO officials said in Tunis that the net outcome of the meeting was a stalemete.

Mr. 'Arafat told some of his close confidants after the meeting that the talks with Mr. Christopher were "disappointing," the sources said.

"He may have come out unscathed in the verbal battle with Christopher, but the fact remains that the PLO is no longer near receiving assistance than it was before the Monday meeting," said a senior PLO official based in Tunis.

PLO Refuses U.S Offer To Transfer Talks

JN0812120093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 25

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Palestinians have rejected a U.S. offer to transfer the Palestinian-Israeli talks from Cairo to Jericho.

Yasir 'Amr, member of the PLO Executive Committee, told AL-RA'Y that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made the offer to President 'Arafat during their meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Amman the day before yesterday.

'Amr, who took part in the Palestinian-U.S. meeting, said: We rejected Christopher's offer and told him that we will not negotiate inside an area that is still under Israeli occupation.

He added: The U.S. secretary of state expressed the United States' willingness to offer all the assistance needed to render the peace plan a success in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, in light of the letters of assurances and the letter of invitation, and based on its commitments, in its capacity as the sponsor of the conference, to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

'Amr said that Christopher told the Palestinian side that he will visit the Jericho area to become acquainted with its features so that he can provide assistance or contribute to any solution.

'Amr revealed that the PLO Executive Committee recently rejected a 50-page Palestinian plan for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho that was presented to it by Dr. Nabil Sha'th during a meeting held with full quorum in Tunis.

The PLO Executive Committee member said: The Executive Committee listened to a detailed report on the withdrawal plan presented to us. However, we did not endorse it. He added: We asked Dr. Sha'th to continue talks with the Israelis in order to improve the conditions of the agreement on the area of Israeli settlements in Gaza and the roads leading to them.

'Amr said that in the presence of Dr. Sha'th, the PLO Executive Committee rejected the Israeli offer dealing with the Jericho area borders.

It is noteworthy that had been an earlier agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis to exchange plans for withdrawal today, Wednesday. Israeli newspapers had noted that the Palestinian plan for withdrawal consists of 50 pages while the Israeli plan for withdrawal consists of 100 pages.

'Amr said that during its meeting, the PLO Executive Committee refused to postpone the date of withdrawal. He added: We instructed our forces to report to crossing points at al-Shunah and Sinai before 13 December.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that the individual weapons, vehicles, and the organs of public relations, moral guidance, and administration of the Palestinian police force are now ready.

Responding to a question, 'Amr said: In its recent meeting in Tunis, the PLO Executive Committee was briefed on the PLO's economic structure, which includes the governors' council, the board of directors, and the general assembly of the development and investment bank. He added: The Committee asked the technical experts to continue laying the firm basis of this economic structure.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Amr denied that there is any intention to dismiss any employee after the PLO receives power from the Israelis. He said that specialized Palestinian technical teams will take over power from the Israelis in six departments in Gaza and Jericho first. The handover of power may include the West Bank as well, he added.

U.S. Role in Israel-Syria Peace Search Viewed

PM0812154193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Christopher and Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent Middle East tour was certainly not expected to produce a magic solution. The U.S. secretary was not expected to produce a solution from his bag the way a magician produces a rabbit out of his hat.

The aims of the tour were more modest than that, yet no less important than such a magic solution.

The first aim was to directly and clearly explore the Syrian and Israeli positions. In this age of immediate contacts, the fog of conflicting information sometimes reaches a point where diplomatic navigation becomes

dangerous, to say the least. That is why it is of paramount importance to have the highest degree of clarity when charting the required course of action.

It is clear that there is a sincere desire on the part of all parties to the conflict to reach a peaceful settlement. Israel has, at long last, realized that its past military victories have not been translated into the political or even psychological changes it expected—changes that might possibly have created a situation in its favor. It is some time since Syria discarded its old policy of achieving "strategic parity" with Israel and preparing for a "decisive round" against it on the battlefield.

Even the U.S. media symbols most hostile to Syria now admit, albeit grudgingly, that Syria's desire for peace is stronger and more sincere than Israel's.

It is really strange that Israel should draw a contrast between what Israel claims to be Syrian intransigence and the clear flexibility demonstrated by the PLO in the secret talks which resulted in the historic agreement last September. Syria, as a main state and player in the regional political arena, cannot behave like a resistance movement in exile.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said recently that peace with Syria would remain impossible unless the two sides held direct and secret talks. That Rabin view is based on what he called "our experience" with Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO. But in his analysis the Israeli prime minister mixes form with substance. The success of the secret "Norwegian channel" is encouraging what may be called an "indiscriminate" love of secrecy, but the fact which cannot be ignored is that the secret talks succeeded not because of their secret venue but because both parties, namely Israel and the PLO, were prepared, morally if not materially, to cover that extra mile to peace.

What is required, therefore, is a search for factors that encourage the give-and-take approach and make it the framework for Syrian-Israeli negotiations, instead of searching for a secret venue for the two sides to negotiate in. The Clinton administration is qualified to pinpoint these factors and to help Syria and Israel use them as required.

There is no general prescription or model scale for peace. The road to peace between Syria and Israel will, of necessity, be different from the road which led to the agreements between the PLO and Israel.

Editorial on Christopher 'Motives' During Visit

TA0812175893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Christopher and the Deadlock"]

[Text] Different motives lie behind U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region. Some of those motives are connected to the tense situation and escalation of violence in the occupied territories. Others are connected to the United States' desire to play the role it devised for itself as a full partner in and major sponsor of the peace talks after the talks had almost reached a dead end.

Despite the fact that the aim of U.S. diplomacy is clear and not concealed to any observer or commentator and is epitomized by invigorating the efforts to achieve settlements on all tracks, especially the Syrian track and the Palestinian-Israeli talks, the results ensuing from Christopher's tour hinge basically on the Israeli reaction to Arab, Palestinian, and Syrian demands. The Israeli side should adopt a serious and objective stance toward the peace process and should circumvent the restrictions imposed by Israeli public opinion, especially by the antipeace sectors, so that it will draw closer to the Arab and international perception of a settlement. Moreover, there are specific and clear concepts about what Israel should do if it wishes to achieve peace in conformity with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Hence, the U.S. secretary of state's remark that there is an urgent need now to redouble the efforts for achieving peace express the reality of the crisis on the negotiating tracks between the Arabs and Israel. As far as the escalating developments in the occupied territories are concerned, this is basically due to a feeling of frustration among Palestinians who are disappointed that no change has occurred in their living and human conditions despite the fact that about three months have passed since the signing of the interim agreement.

In order for the U.S. role to be effective and positive, the assumption is that U.S. diplomacy has explained to the Israeli side the practical steps that will actually lead to energizing the talks and invigorating the peace process. Those intended steps, for example, are related to the long-awaited measures concerning the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees without discrimination, the repatriation of those deported since 1967 and up to the signing of the agreement, and the establishment of guidelines based on UN resolutions for resolving the problem of the displaced and the refugees. It is important for the U.S. secretary to understand the suffering of Palestinians under the current conditions, which contradict international and even U.S. expectations of what should have happened after the signing of the agreement, because such a understanding is the firm basis for any serious move seeking to end the deadlock in the peace process and in the talks about a settlement.

Al-Husayni on Violence, Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

JN0712131893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi carried within "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] As part of her visit to the country, the Finnish defense minister met with a number of Palestinian

figures in East Jerusalem today and listened to their viewpoints regarding the peace process and the obstacles to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The Finnish defense minister expressed concern over the recent acts of violence in the territories. She said that everyone has a responsibility toward creating a new situation that brings an end to acts of violence. She said that violence breeds violence and that this phenomenon must be brought to an end.

[Begin Finnish defense minister's recording, in English] It is, of course, always terrible when things like that are happening. And I think that we have all a responsibility to create an atmosphere, a situation that does not give place for violence like this. Then, we always know violence is creating more violence that is creating more violence. [end recording]

Among the Palestinian personalities that took part in the meeting were Palestinian spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi, and Faysal al-Husayni. Following the meeting, al-Husayni said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] In fact, we have explained the current circumstances, the need to begin immediate implementation of the [PLO-Israel] agreement as scheduled, and the need for an international presence to advance this process.

[Mu'addh] Have you asked for aid from Finland for the Palestinian police?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. We have inquired whether it is possible to receive aid in fields of training or whether they can supply us with certain equipment. I feel they are prepared to discuss this topic in general, but no relevant arrangements have so far been made.

[Mu'addh] What is your comment on the incident that took place in Hebron yesterday?

[Al-Husayni] As we have always said, the best way to stop this cycle of violence and bloodshed is to end the occupation, begin Israeli withdrawal, and to implement the agreement that has been signed on time. The continued occupation and Israeli presence in the Palestinian territory in this manner are causes for violence and counterviolence. As a result, both sides are paying a dear price. I am confident that both peoples are unwilling to pay such a price. Let us implement this agreement as soon as possible and let us get to the stage when there is no violence and counterviolence.

[Mu'addh] Has an agreement been reached on postponing the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Husayni] As far as I know, no agreement has been reached in this regard. We hope that within the next few days, there will be intensive movement toward implementing the agreement as scheduled.

[Mu'addh] Concerning a summit meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Al-Husayni] It is necessary to hold such a meeting, which hopefully will advance matters. [end recording]

PLO Envoy Previews 'Arafat's Visit to Bonn

AU0712121993 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0523 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with 'Abdallah al-Franji, head of the PLO Information Office in Bonn, by unidentified reporter in Cologne—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Mr. Al-Franji.

[Al-Franji] Good morning.

[Reporter] What does PLO leader 'Arafat expect from his visit to Bonn?

[Al-Franji] Yasir 'Arafat is coming to Germany, hoping that we will shape relations between Germany and Palestine in the spirit of peace and in the mutual interest of the two peoples. We would like the Germans to participate in the peace process—politically and economically—and we would like them to help us rebuild the infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that has been completely destroyed, so that the Germans and the German economy—not only the German Government but also the private economy—can participate in this process to enable us to pacify the Middle East.

[Reporter] One month after the signing of the agreement on 13 September you described a utopia. You said that you will build a new Andalusia in the Middle East. Is this not a little too utopian in view of the current situation in the territories?

[Al-Franji] It is no utopia. I am also realistic. When I stated that, I was aware of the difficulties and I know that these difficulties might be complicated, as we have seen in the past few weeks. Yet the determination of the Israelis, of the Israeli leadership, on the one hand and the determination of the Palestinian leadership on the other to vigorously implement this peace agreement, no matter what difficulties may arise, will ensure the continuation of the peace process because this is the only possibility in the entire Middle East that allows our development. I believe that we will have more [word indistinct] in two or three months' time than today. Still, I can state that the situation is much better today than before the conclusion of the agreement on 13 September 1993.

[Reporter] You were received by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel at the beginning of November. During the meeting, he demanded that the Palestinians create the required structures in West Jordan and the Gaza Strip as fast as possible. Is this possible in view of the tensions prevailing there?

[Al-Franji] We are currently tackling this task. Recent actions have disturbed this process a little, but the structures exist to an extent that one can say that we will

announce and present to the public the names of those who are responsible politically and economically in the next few weeks.

[Reporter] You were officially received for the first time by Klaus Kinkel at the beginning of November. The organization that you represent is still called Palestinian Information Office, which is an association registered on the basis of German law. When and in what form will your status in Bonn be upgraded?

[Al-Franji] This issue will be discussed by Yasir 'Arafat, Foreign Minister Kinkel, and Chancellor Kohl. We hope that our office will soon be upgraded. Germany is the only country that has not yet taken this step. We would like to have normal relations with the Germans in all spheres of life—including the economic and political spheres. I also believe that this is an opportunity for German policies to gain a foothold in the Middle East to a greater extent and to become more balanced. This means that the German policy might be pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian at the same time.

[Reporter] You have been advocating the cause of the Palestinians for over 20 years. What reservations are you still meeting in connection with the Palestinian attack on the Israeli team at the Summer Olympics in 1972?

[Al-Franji] This was a sad event. However, so many years have passed, and I believe that the Israelis have come to terms with it. The Israelis stated recently that they have killed all Palestinians responsible for the attack. On the other hand, the Palestinians decided not to look to the past and not to seek the future in the past. After the signing of an agreement with Israelis, we would like to shape the future together with the Israelis and with the help of the Germans and the Europeans, and with the help of the Arab world in a way that makes such events impossible.

'Arafat Adviser Abu-Sharif Interviewed

94AF0039A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
28 Nov 93 pp 20-24

[Interview With Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's personal adviser, by Najm 'Abd-al-Karim; place and date not given]

[Text] If we review the history of Bassam Abu-Sharif, who currently holds the position of personal adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, the man seems to have a contradictory personality. He started his journey with George Habash and with the tendency which adopted the most radical left as a means to regain the Palestinian right. He dealt and struggled with slogans and aspirations, and he nearly paid with his life as a price for dealing with them. But as a result of dealing with the Arab and Western press and media, Abu-Sharif has learned the difference between slogans and reality and between politics and dreams.

Al-Sadat's peace was a reality when Bassam Abu-Sharif embraced it. He was expelled from the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]; so he joined the 'Arafat tendency out of his belief in the steps Yasir 'Arafat was going to take later in the direction of peace.

A lot of clamor, secrets, rumors, and contradictions surround Bassam Abu-Sharif. In its interview with Abu-Sharif, AL-MAJALLAH tries to shed light on these secrets and these contradictions.

['Abd-al-Karim] We often listen to your fiery statements only to hear PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other prominent PLO officials deny them and only to find some of these officials say your statements do not represent the PLO. Then after a time, we discover that what you said has come true and that it is as if their denial never existed. Is this some sort of assigned roles, with you making statements and with them denying, and then accepting, what you have stated?

[Abu-Sharif] You have answered your own question. Gaining credibility in dealing with the media requires a sensitive balance. Such credibility isn't gained overnight but developed throughout years of telling the truth, and not necessarily telling everything.

I have developed this credibility with the media by telling the truth, and not necessarily the whole truth, as I have already said. But a person dealing with the media mustn't say something wrong, because his credibility will suffer. I have developed this credibility over the years, especially with the world media, and it has been proved to everybody that what I said has been the truth.

['Abd-al-Karim] Why did the PLO recently issue a statement that seems to be throwing you beyond the organization's walls?

[Abu-Sharif] I don't know what statement you are talking about. I haven't read any statement that touches me. What has come up recently is tantamount to rumors circulated by the media because my office telephone lines were cut off. To tell you the truth, the sole and only reason for cutting off those lines is that we don't have money to pay telephone bills.

['Abd-al-Karim] Some view this non-payment of the bills as a pretext and believe that the PLO cut off your telephone lines to say that Bassam Abu-Sharif has no connection with the PLO and, therefore, he may not speak in its name.

[Abu-Sharif] This is untrue. The lines have been cut off for lack of funds. Despite all that has been said by the press, these bills have accumulated over the past four years. The telephone company gave us time, but it has cut off the lines now, as it has cut off other lines in Tunis because bills haven't been paid. I hope that these lines will be restored as soon as possible.

['Abd-al-Karim] Excluding 'Adnan Yasin's line which has been open to the Mosad (Israeli Intelligence Agency)?

[Abu-Sharif] By God...

['Abd-al-Karim] Shall we talk about them?

[Abu-Sharif] The telephone lines?

['Abd-al-Karim] No, 'Adnan Yasin's lines, which are open to the Mosad.

[Abu-Sharif] 'Adnan Yasin's story shouldn't be belittled or exaggerated. Not to belittle this story is to say that it is a serious issue, considering that 'Adnan Yasin was in a position that enabled him to contact all leadership members, to enter all offices, and to familiarize himself with numerous issues. I believe that the Palestinian leadership is about to interrogate him and to open dossiers that could lead to toppling numerous heads. I am not familiar with what has developed in Tunis in recent days. But I believe that President Yasir 'Arafat has formed a fact-finding committee comprised of impartial persons to clarify the matter.

Al-Hasan and Quray'

['Abd-al-Karim] What is the significance of appointing Hani al-Hasan to replace Quray' and of his accompanying Chairman 'Arafat on four official trips, considering that a decree was issued expelling al-Hasan from the Central Committee after he had gone to Damascus, agreed with 10 organizations there, and adopted a stance opposing the accord? How do you explain this concoction and how do you balance the facts? Is this also a matter of assigned roles?

[Abu-Sharif] The equation is simple: it is Palestinian democracy. Minority opinions are respected and no decisions are made to expel this minority from action positions. When the decision to sign the accord was made, Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asked everybody, both opponents and supporters, to exert efforts to implement this accord and to march forward on the path of peace.

Hani al-Hasan is a member of the Palestinian organizational and legislative institutions and of Fatah's Central Committee, and he has his influential role. His appointment as head of the negotiators to the multi-national talks is proof that despite his opposition, Hani al-Hasan has joined the effort to implement the accord.

['Abd-al-Karim] I believe that the Palestinian democracy about which you talk is different from what the PLO follows in political lobbies. Different things were said about you when you were in the PFLP ranks and when you suddenly joined President 'Arafat's ranks. We don't know the reason for your shift: was it an ideological position or were you looking for a position for yourself? How do you explain all this?

[Abu-Sharif] Let us begin with the last part of the question. Insofar as I am concerned, my departure from the PFLP was the result of political positions. I am convinced that Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's and the PLO's line is a sound political line and that the Palestinians are going through a phase which requires them to be precisely aware of their position in this world and to know clearly that conflicts in this world are no longer based on balances of armed forces. They are also required to know that this world seeks a stability based on balances of economic competition and that for the first time the world's interests are compatible with a stable Middle East. To achieve this stability, the Palestinian issue must be settled. My political disagreement is with the decision which led to my departure from the PFLP and which led PFLP to expel me publicly because I shook hands with President Husni Mubarak at an African summit in Addis Ababa.

As for brother Hani al-Hasan's meeting with 10 organizations and for issuance of the subsequent statement, we have invited everybody, including the doctor [presumably meaning Dr. George Habash], the PFLP, and the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine], to rejoin the PLO so as to exert efforts to rebuild the infrastructure in Palestine. If we have started with the first step, i.e., with Gaza and Jericho, it is because we have no illusions. All are required to work to rebuild and to free Palestinians in the occupied territories from the occupation.

Gaza-Jericho

['Abd-al-Karim] Are you optimistic about the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Abu-Sharif] The fact is that I have my observations on this accord. These observations have been presented at the right places. However, I am generally optimistic about the general direction that I see clearly coming from the Middle East—a region that is sensitive for the entire world and that contains vital Western interests and vital interests of the Middle East peoples. At this particular historic moment, there is congruence between the world's interests in the Middle East and the creation of a stable Middle East. These interests have to be preserved, but not out of love for black eyes of the Arabs or Palestinians.

The West seeks a stability in the Middle East that will prevent eruptions and wars so that international blocs interested in the Middle East can benefit from the region's sources of wealth and from its markets. Moreover, for the first time in 50 years, the Middle East issue is now tied clearly in the West's mind, and especially in the U.S. mind, to solving the Palestinian issue and ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. So, how could stability be achieved unless Israel withdraws from the territories it occupied in 1967? In other words, it is Reagan's equation of "land for peace." This equation was proposed in 1982 and reaffirmed by President Bush afterward when he offered his initiative that led to holding the Madrid peace conference and to the ongoing peace process.

I am optimistic about the general direction, considering that the world's interests are compatible with a stable Middle East. In a related area, Israel is in a very difficult position, perhaps even more difficult than that of many Arabs. It is an economically, morally, and strategically

difficult position. I believe that the new generations of Israelis have become convinced that the occupation has to be ended; that the Judea and Samaria ideology, on whose basis the Israelis have mobilized for many years, has to be abandoned; and that a step has to be taken to end the occupation and to establish peace with the Arabs so Israel will be able to live in a world which contains whales and small fish. Unless the fish band together to make a school that is difficult for whales to swallow, they will disappear.

Israel is also defending its interests, and it isn't [engaged in the peace process] out of love for the black eyes of the Arabs or in response to the wish of the Americans. All these factors have convinced me that we have to utilize this historic moment and its circumstances and to take a step forward. Gaza-Jericho is a first step on the path of establishing a Palestinian national authority in the territories that were occupied in 1967, and then a confederacy with Jordan. Numerous developments will then follow in the Middle East and will perhaps lead to the creation of a common market that defends the interests of the Middle East peoples.

['Abd-al-Karim] You talk of this political strategy as if matters will proceed strictly according to your aspirations as Palestinians. But do the Israeli side's ideas follow this same direction and is the Israeli side moving with you along this same track?

[Abu-Sharif] I see the general direction as clearly as I see you. But at the same time, I have no illusions about the difficulty of proceeding in this direction. There will be difficulties. Israel has opposition and radicals, as we have opposition and have radicals. There are Middle Eastern governments that oppose this direction, even though the majority approves of it, of course. We have no illusions. If the issue was an easy one, why would we need negotiations? Negotiations have one purpose, namely to solve the pending problems between the two sides and to develop compromises. I believe that this process will gradually develop its own internal dynamics.

['Abd-al-Karim] Among you or among the Israelis?

[Abu-Sharif] Among all parties. The process will become like a snowball that gains in volume the farther it rolls. When the economic wheel is turned and the process of building and reconstruction is begun, everybody will realize that peace means economic development and prosperity. As a minimum, peace means a livelihood.

Edward Said's Opinion

['Abd-al-Karim] Edward Said has said in the British GUARDIAN, "Secret negotiations between the strong and the weak are often held at the expense of the weak and in favor of the strong. When the PLO went to Oslo and agreed to secret negotiations, it agreed to be in the weaker position." How do you view these words?

[Abu-Sharif] I greet Edward Said, the intellectual and man of letters who is very far from politics and political thinking. Had Germany refused to negotiate over her surrender, we wouldn't see a strong Germany now. Political thinking is one thing and the theory of strong and weak is another. The Palestinian issue's strategic dimension will continue to exist. If Palestinians were weak, Israel and the Arab regimes would have wiped them out over the past 45 years. We have been subjected to enough wars to wipe a people, perhaps even a number of the world's peoples.

It is enough for me to remind Edward Said of Jordan's battles, of Lebanon's battles, and of other organized battles against the Palestinians. It is enough to remind him of starvation and destruction of the refugee camps and the 27-year Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I will also remind Said of 900,000 Arabs who are still in Israel as Israeli citizens. But they are Arabs who speak Arabic, who are proud of Arab poetry, and who give their children a proper Arab upbringing. So, we are strong. If we weren't strong, Israel wouldn't negotiate with us on the basis of ending the Judea and Samaria ideology, keeping in mind that Israel has raised all its generations with the idea that Judea and Samaria are an indivisible part of Israel.

['Abd-al-Karim] What worries the Americans and the Egyptian mediators now is the Syrian rejection of the secret accords. Do you expect success on the Syrian front?

[Abu-Sharif] There is progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, and I expect that an accord will be signed in the near future. I also expect that a Jordanian-Israeli accord will be signed in a few days and, of course, a Lebanese-Israeli accord. But whoever thinks that our issue as Palestinians is the issue of the occupied Golan or occupied [Lebanese] border strip is wrong. Syria is an extant state, its people live on their land, and it has sovereignty over its territories. A part of Syria's territory, called the Golan, is occupied. Thus, the issue between Syria and Israel is to schedule Israel's withdrawal from a piece of territory that belongs to an existing state which has its institutions. The people of this state live in their territories and they have their sovereignty. The same goes for Lebanon. Lebanon's issue with Israel is occupation of the border strip. The solution is to schedule Israel's withdrawal from this border strip. But we Palestinians have two issue: the first is Israel's withdrawal and the second is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish on the ground institutions and sovereignty that haven't existed before.

Since 1948, the Palestinian people have been living under an Egyptian mandate in Gaza and have been attached to Jordan in the West Bank.

Thus, we have two issues and, consequently, our problem is solved in two stages. It is on this basis that all the Arab sides have waged 10 rounds of negotiations. What we have done with the declaration of principles is a first step on the path to developing a solution to one of the two issues, and then to both issues. What I mean is

that Israel's withdrawal from these territories is a first step. Giving the Palestinians in these territories a national authority is a step on the path of a national authority in all the territories. It isn't true that the Palestinians have acted independently or exclusively. The only peace we will establish with Israel is comprehensive peace, i.e., a peace whereby all the Arabs meet to sign the land-for-peace equation with Israel.

Economic Aspect

['Abd-al-Karim] In your dialogue, you focus on the economic aspect. Don't you agree with me that Peres' and Rabin's statements which advocate a Mideastern economic policy that promises a prosperity whose benefits will spread to everybody, including Israel—don't you agree with me that such statements are premature?

[Abu-Sharif] No real progress can be made in this regard unless comprehensive peace is established. The Arab position has been totally clear on this issue, whether in the multi-national meetings or when the United States asked the Arabs to abolish the Arab boycott decision. There can be no cooperation unless comprehensive peace is established. Comprehensive peace means returning all the territories occupied in 1967 and giving the Palestinian people their full right to self-determination. Then, a discussion on establishing a common Mideastern market becomes not only possible but, in my opinion, natural.

['Abd-al-Karim] Were you aware of the agreement or of the confidential talks that were held in Oslo?

[Abu-Sharif] I was totally unaware. I, like many leadership members, was kept in the dark on this issue. It has become obvious that unknown cadres were sent to negotiate with the Israelis so the matter could be kept confidential.

['Abd-al-Karim] In this dialogue, it seems as if you want to bestow legitimacy on the Israeli presence in the region, even though we have been raised to believe that Israel has stolen part of the Arab land.

[Abu-Sharif] A fait accompli is a fait accompli, regardless of whether we like it or not. I am talking of both those who still call for liberating Palestine from the river to the sea and those who have signed the land-for-peace accord. Israel is a fait accompli, and it is required to deal with this fait accompli rationally. Else, our people will continue to live under occupation and we will continue to be in this miserable condition.

The accord that has been concluded is a declaration of principles and a first step on the path of establishing a Palestinian national authority in a Palestinian state over all the territories occupied in 1967. This means that the accord is based on the initiative approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC]. The PNC approved Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognition of Israel in return for establishing a Palestinian state on the territories occupied in 1967.

This is the fait accompli and this is the matter with which everybody who does not wish to live on dreams and fantasies has dealt.

But conclusion of the accord does not prevent anybody who so wishes from dreaming, fantasizing, or continuing to strategically defend the Palestinian people's historical right.

Rather, I say that it is not only the right but the duty of our cultured men of letters to continue to talk on this issue. But it is a different matter for politicians who are dealing with the freedom of a people straining under occupation, with their livelihood, and with their future.

Theorizing Acceptance

['Abd-al-Karim] We rejected Resolution 181 in 1947, and we rejected the ideas of the Palestinian Communist Party that called for keeping the partition. Bourguiba's loud calls were not heeded. Resolutions 242 and 338 were rejected and al-Sadat was killed because of his visit [to Israel]. You were one of those who rejected all of the above. So what new development has come up to make you the theoretician advocating acceptance of the fait-accompli policy?

[Abu-Sharif] What you have said is true. It is also true that other resolutions were adopted after all the things you have mentioned. On 15 November 1988, the PNC resolved to adopt a new strategy. There is also the statement proclaiming the Palestinian state, the approval given to Yasir 'Arafat's initiative, and the decision to go to Madrid.

These, too, are resolutions. If they indicate anything, then it is that the Palestinian intellect is not rigid but dynamic. Every resolution must be put to trial at its moment and under the circumstances existing when it is adopted. We cannot, for example, put to trial today a decision that was made by the Palestinians 40 years ago in the light of their circumstances at the time.

These developments indicate that the Palestinians, and the Arabs as well—because the Palestinians are not proceeding along this track by themselves—have picked up what is new in this world and have managed to learn the true nature of things and the circumstances through which the world, including the Middle East, is going. They have been able to chart a new political line that does not exclude them from the political map but rather puts them in the center of this map. I say that this is a healthy sign. It indicates that the Arabs are aware of what is going on around them, that they have become capable of defending their interests and that they can no longer be duped as they were duped by McMahon and by British and French colonialism in the past, or as the Israelis duped a number of Arab regimes who cooperated with them to impose this tragedy on the Middle East.

['Abd-al-Karim] As long as we are talking about regimes, then permit me to point out to you that the PLO has dealt with most regimes, and their various ideologies,

with a degree of balance, except in the case of Kuwait. Your alignment with the Iraqi regime has cost you the balance for which you were known.

[Abu-Sharif] Frankly, I believe that there is confusion and there is a mistake. The confusion is in interpreting the Palestinian position, which was clearly opposed to the occupation and which supported Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. This position was also for withdrawal of the foreign forces and for avoiding the tribulations of war. The mistake was in how this position was expressed. A number of statements made by some Palestinian leaders reflected the Palestinian position as if it were a position of support for the occupation of Kuwait. No, we did not support the occupation of Kuwait. Naturally, there were some who supported it. You have also seen that some in the Arab arena supported the occupation and some opposed it. But the Palestinian position was one of opposition to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

['Abd-al-Karim] So what do you call a number of Palestinian military teams who were in Kuwait, and some of whom interrogated Kuwaiti citizens?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not believe at all that there were Palestinian teams in Kuwait.

['Abd-al-Karim] There are those who assert that there were Palestinian forces side-by-side with the Iraqi forces.

[Abu-Sharif] The Arab Liberation Front was there. This front is, as you know, a branch of the Iraqi Ba'th Party and not a Palestinian organization. I am not denying here that some Palestinians did take a position [of support for Iraq]. But this was not the official position.

The official position was obvious. I am familiar with the secret details through letters sent to numerous Arab and world figures. The Palestinian position called primarily for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and for forming an Arab political committee to develop a political solution that would obstruct war and spare Arabs its ordeals.

Persuading Saddam Husayn

['Abd-al-Karim] Is it true that Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) clashed with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during the invasion?

[Abu-Sharif] The truth is that most of the Palestinian leaders' meetings with Saddam Husayn were tantamount to endeavors to persuade him to withdraw from Kuwait and to convince him that war would bring devastation to everybody. Regrettably, the only thing shown on television screens was Abu-'Ammar embracing Saddam Husayn. This image was misused in such a way that it harmed the Palestinian position. As for the assassination of Abu-Iyad during that crisis, it has nothing to do with what you say. The assassination was carried out by another Palestinian faction.

['Abd-al-Karim] How are you going to confront Hamas at home, considering that Hamas opposes the accord?

[Abu-Sharif] Hamas is opposed, and it has the right to express its opinion. We respect this opinion, but we ask Hamas to abide by the majority decision. The majority's decision is the Palestinian decision. Internal conflict is not settled with the use of force. What is agreed upon is: free expression and democratic struggle.

['Abd-al-Karim] And what about the intifadah?

[Abu-Sharif] The intifadah is the people's resistance to the occupation. If the occupation ends, there will be no need for resistance.

['Abd-al-Karim] But large parts of the homeland will still be occupied?

[Abu-Sharif] No. This is the first step. The first step is Gaza and Jericho. In accordance with the accord, the rest of the West Bank territories are to follow this step in nine months. The Jerusalem issue will then remain to be negotiated in the next phase.

I bade Bassam Abu-Sharif farewell, confident that he did not say everything. I agreed with him on another interview when the first real step is accomplished, i.e., when the Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza and Jericho in a few weeks.

Police Brigades To Be Deployed in Gaza, Jericho

JN0912094393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Dec 93 pp 28, 25

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] SAWT AL-SHA'B has seen the broadlines of the Palestinian security plan, which will be implemented with the start of the self-rule in the Gaza and Jericho areas.

According to the plan, five Palestinian police force brigades will be deployed in the Gaza Strip and two in the Jericho area. A detailed map has been prepared showing the location of each of the brigades, which will enter from Egypt and Jordan before the withdrawal of Israeli troops in order to avoid any security vacuum.

Force-17, led by Brigadier Muhammad al-Natur, alias Abu-Tayyib, and which is directly linked to the PLO chairman, will be tasked with stopping excesses inside the occupied territories, including excesses by PLO elements which may lead to negative reactions by citizens. [passage omitted]

Sources Report Agreement on Prisoner Release

TA0812074793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Dozens of activists from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the

Liberation of Palestine have been arrested in the territories over the past two days. These are preemptive arrests designed to prevent the organization of riots by the Rejectionist Front.

Palestinian sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that agreement has been reached between Israel and the Palestinians on the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners on 13 December. The numbers given range between 1,500 to 3,500 prisoners.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, a member of the steering committee at the Cairo talks, told our correspondent that the two sides had almost reached agreement on the timetable for the release of the Palestinian prisoners. Abu-Middayn reported that a draft agreement had already been prepared on the civil issues pertaining to the negotiations.

Our correspondent adds that on 13 December, the Palestinian police force will begin operating in Jericho and in those parts of the Gaza Strip which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will vacate. Approximately 600 German-made police cars will be shipped to the territories to serve the Palestinian policemen.

PFLP-GC Urges Escalating 'Armed Struggle'

JN0812190993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued a statement in Beirut on the glorious, popular intifadah's conclusion of its sixth year.

The PFLP-GC urged fighting all forms of reconciliation and normalization with the Zionist enemy. It also urged supporting the intifadah so it can pursue its struggle.

The PFLP-GC further called for escalating armed struggle against the Zionist enemy inside and outside and the occupied territories.

Hamas: Intifadah To Ensure Failure of Accord

LD0812210093 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—An official of the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine (Hamas) said here today that the Gaza-Jericho agreement between PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and the Zionist regime is doomed to collapse.

Abu-Jihad [not further identified] who was talking to IRNA on the occasion of the anniversary of the intifadah in occupied Palestine, said that some naive people among the Palestinians thought that Palestine could be liberated by negotiations with the Zionist regime, but that the recent talks between the advocates of appeasement policies and the Zionist regime proved that the judgment is nothing more than wishful thinking.

He said that the advocates of the policy of compromise with the Zionist regime today see that their friends are actually begging the least things from the Zionists while the latter routinely kills Palestinians everyday.

Abu-Jihad said the struggling people of Palestine will stand against the occupiers of their land and that they would exploit the entirety of the military and political means in order to ensure that the Gaza-Jericho accord will end in failure.

He said militarily the strategy of the jihad of Palestine is to hold out and further expand armed resistance against the Zionists and at the same time make a political effort to unify all national and Islamic forces within a new political organization as a new leadership, and also mobilize all domestic means in order to materialize the aspirations of the Muslim people of Palestine.

Hamas Says Israel Imposing Conditions in Talks

TA0812150693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Dec 93 pp 1, 19

[Text] London, QUDS PRESS—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has stressed that Israel is imposing its conditions on the Palestinians at the current talks that seek to reach agreement on the terms and details of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

A statement distributed by Hamas to mark the sixth anniversary of the intifadah says that "the round of talks in Taba, al-'Arish, and Cairo are being held one after the other and the results have been in Israel's favor, because it imposed the accord from a position of strength."

The statement adds that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is imposing his conditions on the current talks. He insists on postponing the hand-over date; he insists on redeploying his forces instead of withdrawing them from Gaza; he insists on keeping the settlements; he insists on maintaining full control over the crossing points and roads; and he insists on delineating a small area for Jericho.

In Statement 105 sent to QUDS PRESS, Hamas says that "Israel is insisting on its conditions and demands and is obtaining them just as it desires." The statement asks: What kind of peace is this that is being heralded by the Gaza-Jericho team?

Hamas says: The Bi'r Zayt University Student Council elections proved that national unity is one of the requirements of Palestinian national action at this critical juncture in the history of our people and cause.

Hamas demands that the Arab economic boycott of Israel not be lifted and calls on Arab states to resist attempts to normalize relations with Israel.

The statement condemns international sanctions against Arab and Islamic nations, especially Sudan, Iraq, and Libya. It warns the international community against

continued use of the United Nations as an obedient tool in the service of U.S. interests and goals.

Hamas salutes the brothers in Fatah who refuse to respond to the Tunis leadership's demand to stop confrontation operations against Israel.

Hamas Denounces FRG Minister's 'Racist Statement'

JN0812184793 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denounced statements made by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel upon receiving traitor 'Arafat. Kinkel attacked Palestinian nationalist and Islamic forces.

The spokesman said: We had hoped for a fair, objective stance on the part of the German administration toward legitimate resistance against the Zionist occupation.

The German minister made a racist statement attacking those whom he called extremist Palestinian Islamists for their responsibility for killing 18 Zionists since the signing of the Rabin-'Arafat agreement. Kinkel disregarded the martyrdom of 50 Palestinians during the same period at the hands of the Zionist assassination gangs.

Opposition Statement Criticizes Jordan's Stands

JN0912100993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Statement issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposing the Arab-Israeli peace talks "on the intifadah sixth anniversary;" place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] O masses of our lofty militant people: The glorious intifadah enters its seventh year in full force and vigor. It is taking deeper and more active forms in the face of the suppression, oppression, and terrorism of the Zionist occupiers. The intifadah is also offering more and more martyrs. Among the leading martyrs is hero 'Imad 'Aql and his brother martyrs in the struggling 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

The intifadah is challenging the enthusiasm and submission of 'Arafat's clique of capitulation, which signed the Gaza-Jericho document of submission. This document bolsters occupation and turns the individuals and agencies of this clique into a tool in the hands of the Zionists to suppress the intifadah and strike at the strugglers. This document is also a bridge to penetrate Arab and Islamic markets, economies, regimes, and societies.

The clashes raging in our occupied territory today, within the framework of this brave intifadah, and the brutal acts of repression and killing committed by the Zionists against our people there, clearly expose the nature of the alleged Israeli peace—the peace of killing and bloodshed and peace of annihilation carried out by settlers and the occupation forces against the defenseless Palestinians. Also, the results of the Bi'r Zayt and Gaza universities' elections show our people's stand on the writ of submission, the Gaza-Jericho accord; disprove all campaigns of slandering, forgery, and deception carried out by the 'Arafatist clique to fake our people's will and to claim that our people support this accord; and affirm that this clique has lost its legitimacy and right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people. This clique is facing divisions and fragmentation amid conflicts over cheap gains and empty posts in the self-administration rule under the Zionists' control and authority. The stands of this defeatist clique and submission to the demands and terms of the Zionist enemy produced serious political repercussions on the Arab level. These stands not only weakened the negotiating stand of the other Arab parties involved in the talks, which this clique claimed to have coordinated with, but prompted many Arab regimes to expeditiously receive Zionist leaders, host the meetings in which they participate, and to publicly hold meetings with them in Western, and even, Arab capitals. These stands also encouraged Jordan to conclude an agreement with the Zionists similar to the ill-omened Gaza-Jericho accord. This agreement will deal another blow to the Palestinian issue, increase the danger of Zionist penetration into the Jordanian and Palestinian arenas, and break the walls of the Arab boycott surrounding the Zionist entity before the return of any inch of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory.

O masses of our struggling Palestinian people: As the 10 Palestinian factions pledge to continue to raise the banner of struggle—the banner of jihad and revolution against the Zionist occupation and the banner of confrontation against the agreement of submission, the Gaza-Jericho accord, and the plot of self-administration rule, which is collapsing under the blows of the mujahidin resisters—it promises you to topple the Rabin-'Arafat agreement, rebuild the PLO institutions on democratic revolutionary bases, and promote their working programs. Our objective is to make these institutions meet your national aspirations and hopes, express your solid militant will in confronting the course of capitulation, absorb all your momentous militant capabilities, meet your national duties, and face the serious requirements facing our people at this stage.

On this national occasion, on the intifadah sixth anniversary, we call on you to carry out the following militant activities:

A day of popular anger on 9 December: A day of general strike and various militant activities in the occupied Palestinian territory;

A day of various activities on the same day: Marches, seminars, and solidarity meetings in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and in other areas in the diaspora.

Long live the glorious intifadah; long live our great militant people. Shame on the defeatists and capitulators; and defeat to the Zionist occupiers.

[signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

PLO Issues Statistics on Intifadah Years

TA0812192493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 5

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Statistics prepared by the PLO show that 1,540 Palestinians were martyred in the occupied Arab territories since the outbreak of the intifadah in the first week of December 1987 and until the end of last November. In the same period, 130,016 Palestinians were wounded and 115,962 detained by Israeli forces for various durations.

A report issued by the PLO Occupied Homeland Affairs Department on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the intifadah shows that 197 Palestinians were martyred from January to December 1993, in comparison to 159 martyrs during the past year.

According to the report, so far during this year confrontations between Palestinian residents and the Israeli occupation forces have resulted in the injury of more than 5,000 Palestinians.

The report notes that the Israeli authorities are still holding between 12,000 to 15,000 Palestinian activists in jails. Israel denies this and says that the number of Palestinian prisoners does not exceed 10,000.

The report says that at least 400 Palestinian prisoners are suffering from bad medical and mental conditions as a result of Israeli practices against them. Since the outbreak of the intifadah, 32 Palestinian prisoners have been martyred because of the Israeli methods used in interrogating them.

The PLO department's annual report says that the Israeli occupation authorities deported 415 Palestinians to south Lebanon in the first days of the sixth year of the intifadah on the charge of membership in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

The report notes that Israel repatriated half of those deportees to the occupied territories and the rest are expected to be returned before the end of this year.

The report says that Israel has deported 1,450 Palestinians from the occupied territories since 1967, 69 of whom were expelled during the intifadah years. Israel has allowed the return of only 30 old-time deportees despite the fact that by issuing several resolutions, the United Nations has affirmed the deportees' right of return.

The PLO report says that in the past year, the Israeli authorities demolished 203 homes in the occupied territories, raising the number of homes demolished by the occupation forces since 1967 to 2,764. Some 5,108 trees were uprooted in 1993, and a total of 141,088 trees have been uprooted since 1967.

Since the beginning of the occupation, the Israeli authorities confiscated 3,008,210 dunams of land belonging to Palestinian residents, including 2,000 dunams confiscated last year.

According to the PLO report, Israel continued to settle Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories. The number of immigrants who arrived in occupied Palestine from 1989 to 1992 reached 465,000, including 69,033 who arrived from January to December 1993. This figure is expected to grow by the end of this year.

Algeria

Official Urges Army To Support HCE Extension

PM0812124993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Information About Possibility of Closing Border and Announcing State of Emergency"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Major General Khaled Nezzar, member of the Higher State Council [HCE] in Algeria, held an unofficial meeting with senior Army commanders which Defense Minister Lamine Zeroual did not attend. AL-HAYAH has learned that the participants discussed the possibility of extending the HCE's term for another six months, through June 1994.

Reliable sources have said that former Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Nezzar reviewed with the military commanders the Army's role in the coming "transitional period," especially as the "national dialogue committee" has become merely a mediator between the opposition and the State Council. The meeting took place after Lamine Zeroual requested the Presidential Council members to hand over power to Khaled Nezzar on the specified date, that is 31 December, whatever the results of the dialogue committee's contacts.

Sources close to the meeting revealed to AL-HAYAH that Maj. Gen. Nezzar is eager to supervise the transitional phase "personally."

Observers interpreted Maj. Gen. Zeroual's absence as denoting a clear Army High Command position toward the HCE, although views are close between Gen. Nezzar and Gen. Zeroual with regard to the HCE's departure.

Some sources close to the meeting believe that Khaled Nezzar's meeting with senior officers is an indication that there are disagreements over the transitional phase among key leaders. They said that there are attempts to renew the July "plan" stipulating that power be handed over to Khaled Nezzar. They stressed that disagreements between the defense minister and the security forces' commander have begun to decrease since the meeting.

Western diplomatic sources in Algiers have told AL-HAYAH that they have received information about the possible closure of the Algerian border soon and the replacement of the emergency laws currently imposed in the country with a state of emergency. The sources said that U.S. and French circles have voiced reservations about moving to the state of emergency. [passage omitted]

Commission Sees Progress in Talks With Parties

LD0812153393

[Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1223 GMT on 9 December broadcasts an 82-minute recorded studio interview with three members of the National Dialogue Commission by radio journalists. The three members of the National Dialogue Commission are Kacem Kebir, former Judicial Council president and member of the Constitutional Council, Dr. Taha Tiar, university lecturer and director general of the National School of Administration, and Mohamed Touati, adviser at the National Defense Ministry.

The dialogue starts with the moderator introducing the participants and providing background about the National Dialogue Commission. The main issues discussed are: The subject of the dialogue and the issues discussed with the political parties, the power of the upcoming conference of national dialogue, and the difficulties facing the commission. The participants focus on the outcome of the dialogue so far—the consensus on the need for a transitional period, the need for constitutional reforms, the need for the dialogue to be open to all political forces, the recent Higher State Council statement on dialogue, the independence of the Commission, the possible date of the national conference, the role of the army, and the phenomenon of violence in Algerian society. They stress the need for the conference on national dialogue to reach an agreement on the future of the country, and point out the various ideas put forward by the opposition parties on how the transitional period should be managed.

They stress that during their talks with political parties they felt that there is sincerity on the part of the latter to make progress toward a solution that will save the country. They point out that there was tangible, albeit small, progress, asserting their determination to do everything to secure national concord in the country through the convening of the conference on national dialogue, which should be held before the end of the year. But if no agreement on a date is reached it might be postponed to a later date in the new year.

The comments expressed by the National Dialogue Commission's members during the program are in general terms, and they offer no specific new proposals or initiatives for overcoming the current crisis in Algeria.

Foreign Ministry Official Killed in Attack

LD0812180493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpt] A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today said that Mr. Salah Fellah, director of the Asian affairs bureau at the Foreign Ministry, died today as a result of his wounds at the Ain Naadja hospital. Mr. Fellah was the victim of an armed attack yesterday morning as he was leaving his home in the Saoula district. [passage omitted]

Eight People Killed by Gunmen Near Algiers

LD0812195593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Eight citizens were killed and two others seriously injured today at around 1300 hours in Oued Fodda, Chlef Province, by a group of gunmen, according to security sources.

The same sources indicated that five terrorists had been eliminated and nine others arrested between 5 and 6 December in central and eastern Algeria.

Briton Killed Resisting Attempt To Steal Car

LD0812132693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The security services have disclosed that a British national, named Malcolm David [Vincent], was assassinated yesterday evening at the gasoline station in Bettioua, Oran Province, by two armed people. The incident took place as the British national was about to fill his car with gasoline when the two attackers took him by surprise and attempted to steal his car. When he refused, they opened fire on him and wounded him in the chest. He died while being transported to hospital.

The British national was a computer technician aged 41 years old. He lived alone at a SONATRACH [Algerian state oil company] camp.

Following the incident, the British Government hurried to express its great concern for the security of its subjects living in Algeria, who number 335, most of whom work in the hydrocarbon industry. [passage omitted]

FIS Leadership: Talks With Regime Now 'Futile'

PM0812170793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "A Message from Belhadj to the Dialogue Committee"]

[Text] Jeddah—Cheik Ali Belhadj, the main figure in the leadership of the (dissolved) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has sent a message to the "Dialogue Committee" in Algeria described by FIS Executive Committee Chairman Rabeh Kebir as "strongly worded." Kebir told AL-HAYAH that he learned about the message from a "source close" to the Algerian Government and also from FIS sources. He called on the Algerian Government to "reveal the contents of the message or we will be compelled to publish it within the coming days."

He added that the message was "in response to a contacts made by the regime with Cheik Ali Belhadj." Sources close to the FIS said that the message "contains not a call for dialogue but strong opposition to it, on the grounds that the FIS cannot possibly talk to those who kill Algerian people."

The sources added that "the Dialogue Committee is now talking about the possibility of opening a dialogue with the FIS, as the term of the Higher State Council draws to a close at the end of this month and as the regime fails to find the solution to the security situation which it has been seeking in the past two years, in the course of which it has killed thousands of young Algerians." They added that "the regime has wasted more than one opportunity, and the FIS is now convinced that a dialogue with it would be futile."

Minister: 'No Decision' on Dinar Devaluation

LD0912013793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] The national meeting of the banks ended this evening and several recommendations have been made on banking activities in a market economy. These recommendations stress the need to encourage a policy of national savings and exercise caution in granting loans.

In his address, Economy Minister Mourad Benachenhou focused on the importance of banks in a market economy, saying that the banks operate within the framework of trust which in itself is the basis of the economy. Regarding the importance of the recommendations made by the national meeting of the banks, the economy minister made the following statement to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Benachenhou] It was a good assessment. In any case, the contributions of all the participants in this seminar were good. Banking problems are very complex and raising such problems before people who are not specialized in banking matters can be difficult. In my opinion, the bank officials and all the experts who spoke tried to give information which was accurate and which was at the same time understood by everyone.

[Correspondent] What are the recommendations?

[Benachenhou] A number of recommendations were made by a committee made up of colleagues from banks and the Economy Ministry. The banks will take these recommendations into account because they are in their interest. [end recording]

Our colleague Mohamed Laid Chabi asked the economy minister about a possible devaluation of the dinar. The minister replied:

[Begin Benachenhou recording] I have nothing to say about this problem. This decision lies with the state and so far no decision has been taken regarding any change in the value of the Algerian currency. [end recording]

The servicing of the public debt reached 200 billion Algerian dinars in 1992, out of which 51.3 billion came from interest due to the banks. According to the Treasury, its volume will remain the same in the next few years. The Treasury points out that this information given during the national sessions of banks highlights the very heavy burdens on the state treasury.

It is worth mentioning that about 110 billion Algerian dinars were used to cover the bank deficit of 22 state-owned companies which were financially deficient.

Dembri Holds Talks With Bosnian Vice President

LD0812202693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri held talks at the Foreign Ministry today with Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic. The talks were attended, on the Algerian side, by Mr. Maamari Khelfa, Foreign Ministry director general in charge of Europe, and the Bosnian ambassador to Algeria.

The talks dealt with the tragic situation in Bosnia, the negotiations under way in Geneva, and prospects for cooperation between Algeria and Bosnia.

It is worth mentioning that Ejup Ganic handed a message from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi.

Furthermore, as an expression of support for the Republic of Bosnia, Algeria today decided to contribute to the opening of a Bosnian Embassy in Algiers as soon as possible.

Ganic Holds News Conference

LD0812222093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic ended his official visit to Algeria today. Before that he held a news conference at Djenane El Mithaq in Algiers this evening, in the presence of Algerian and foreign reporters. Over to Said Brahimi:

[Brahimi] Bosnian Vice President Ganic said he is happy to visit Algeria, adding that he is here to make the Algerian people and authorities aware of the daily tragedies which Bosnia-Herzegovina has been experiencing since 26 April 1992, when the forces of Serbia and Montenegro seized Bosnian territory using weapons belonging to the former Yugoslavia. He further said that he is in Algeria to explain the Bosnian stand at the current Geneva negotiations.

Mr. Ganic added that the acts of aggression have resulted in the killing of 200 people, the destruction of 850 mosques, and the rape of Bosnian girls and mothers, in addition to the destruction of buildings, hospitals, schools, and so on. He also said that the reason for the killings is simply because the Bosnian people are Muslims and this, he added, explains the policy of the international community. He argued: Had we not been Muslims, the matter would have been different. We tried to resolve the problem peacefully but our enemies refused that. Now we have to be patient and resist with all means. Despite all this, we are prepared to live with those who have not perpetrated crimes against the Bosnian people.

Mr. Ganic also said that he had visited the neighboring European states, then the United States, and that now he has to visit the states of the Muslim world, of which Algeria is part.

Egypt

Mubarak, Christopher Hold News Conference

NC0812142093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that progress on the Syrian-Israeli track requires flexibility from both Syria and Israel, pointing to the lack of confidence between the two sides.

During a news conference held jointly with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of their 90-minute talks, President Mubarak said that all the Palestinians will respect the final decision that the PLO and Israel reach.

President Mubarak added that the Palestinian problem is extremely complicated, noting: We must expect various views within the PLO. He said that there are other parties that will not be pleased with any progress in the peace process, but when everything is over everyone will respect the PLO's final decision.

Asked about the possible meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Clinton, President Mubarak said that if this meeting takes place it would help advance the peace process. He expressed the hope that this meeting will take place.

Asked about the efforts that he can make to guarantee a meeting between al-Asad and Rabin, President Mubarak said that this subject was discussed before but the time is not appropriate now.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that progress will be made in the Israeli-Palestinian accord before the date set for implementing the accord, 13 December.

Secretary Warren Christopher said that a number of basic, important points were agreed to during his talks with President Mubarak today to advance the peace process. He affirmed that Egypt will continue its vital role to achieve stability in the region and put an end to ongoing violence.

Christopher said that he briefed President Mubarak on the talks he recently held in other capitals. He noted that his talks with President Mubarak also dealt with relations between Egypt and the United States.

Christopher expressed the conviction that the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Clinton could help push the peace process forward.

President Mubarak delivered a statement at the outset of the news conference in which he welcomed the U.S. secretary of state. He praised Christopher's tour of the region during which he visited Syria, Israel, and Jordan and met with president 'Arafat. President Mubarak said that Egypt and the United States are working together to help implement the Declaration of Principles and advance the peace process, particularly on the Syrian track.

President Mubarak added: We had positive discussions on this topic and we, along with the United States, continue to make efforts so that peace will prevail in this area.

In a reply statement, Christopher thanked President Mubarak and expressed his pleasure at visiting Cairo once again and at having the opportunity to talk with President Mubarak. He said that the entire world is aware of President Mubarak's efforts and vital role to advance the peace process.

Christopher said that President Mubarak explained an important point during the meeting, namely that the implementation of the Declaration of Principles is essential to the advancement of the peace process, to put an end to the cycle of violence, and to show the world that there is a new reality and that progress is being made.

Christopher said that the points raised by President Mubarak have special significance and must be remembered by all sides. We are confident that Egypt will continue its vital role to promote the Declaration of Principles and advance the peace process on all tracks, Christopher added.

Christopher said that he has submitted a report to President Mubarak on his meetings in the other capitals, noting that he will leave the region during the next two days. He said that he is optimistic about the peace process if the parties involved decide to resume negotiations and are serious about making progress.

The U.S. secretary of state said: We need to promote the spirit of reconciliation because there is a possibility of establishing good relations between all sides in the region. Christopher pointed out that his talks with President Mubarak also dealt with several regional issues, particularly the cooperation between Egypt and the United States to resolve the problems facing Africa. He said the talks also touched on ways to solve African problems.

President Mubarak was asked if he would visit Jerusalem to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He replied that he meets the Israelis from time to time and that, in principle, he does not mind holding such a meeting in Jerusalem. He added: We are in constant touch with Rabin and with the Israeli Government to sort out problems.

Mubarak stressed that if such a meeting could help stimulate the peace process, he would be ready to hold it immediately. I do not have any qualms or problems concerning a meeting in Israel, Mubarak declared.

Asked if the peace process would suffer a setback if the Israeli withdrawal does not take place on 13 December, Mubarak said that there would be a setback. However, he added, it is important to achieve something on that date and to make progress toward implementing the Declaration of Principles.

If the implementation were delayed with the approval of both sides and for good reasons, there would still be hope for progress, Mubarak said. The president voiced hope that a date would be set for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and that progress would be made accordingly.

Mubarak was asked if he can arrange a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin with the aim of achieving lasting peace. The president answered that the Middle East problem has several tracks and that efforts should be made on all the tracks to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mubarak added: Regarding a meeting between al-Asad and Rabin, we discussed this matter a long time ago. I think that the time is not right for discussing it further right now. Later on, when progress is made in the peace process, we may try to arrange such a meeting. That is, when both sides are convinced that it would be useful for them.

Christopher answered the same question by saying that it is useful to have direct contact between the Israelis and Syrians and that efforts are behind made in this direction.

The U.S. secretary of state was asked whether he expects more violence to take place if a date is not set for the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and whether the Syrian and Jordanian tracks may be negatively affected. Christopher replied by saying that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have held several face-to-face meetings, some of these in Cairo. This is the best way to discuss the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, Christopher pointed out.

The U.S. secretary of state added that he urges both sides to continue their meetings regularly and resolve the problems that face the implementation of the agreement. As President Mubarak said, the implementation of the agreement at a specific date is the best way to inspire confidence in the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza, Christopher stated. He added that the implementation of the agreement on time will help end the violence in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli and Palestinian sides need to find a solution to the problems of implementing the agreement, Christopher pointed out.

Responding to a question about problems facing Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat within the PLO, President Mubarak said that given a situation involving difficult problems like the Palestinian problem, we should expect diverse ideas and numerous problems within the PLO. We confronted such problems when we signed the peace agreement, but there is a difference between the two cases because the Egyptian people supported the agreement and peace between Egypt and Israel. Mubarak said: In a situation like the Palestinian problem, which began 45 years ago, we must expect that certain parties will not be happy about progress in this direction and that other parties, abetted by external forces, will try to create problems. He said that we must expect acts of violence to continue in the region until the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles is implemented. He said that acts

of violence will decrease as more clauses of the agreement are implemented. He added: Regarding the problems within the PLO, there are numerous views but I believe that when a final decision is made, all members will honor it.

In reply to a question on his remark about a delay in implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Christopher said that if the Palestinian and Israeli parties agree that they need few more days to solve certain problems hindering implementation of the agreement, the United States will not interfere. He said: As President Mubarak said, when both parties begin implementing the agreement, acts of violence in the West Bank and Gaza will decrease.

Cairo, Tehran Reportedly Agree To Hold Contacts

NC0812180393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Diplomatic sources have stated that Cairo and Tehran have agreed to hold regular periodic contacts to resolve bilateral and regional differences. These contacts follow efforts made by Damascus in the past two months to reconcile the views of the two sides.

AL-SHA'B has learned that it has been agreed to keep the agenda of the talks between the two sides open to enable each side to place the topics it believes are basic and essential for improving bilateral ties on the agenda.

The two sides have also agreed that their Foreign Ministries will specify the dates of the meetings. Iran prefers the contacts to be held by high-level officials authorized by the two countries' leaders to adopt decisions allowing for a gradual normalization of relations.

New Proposals Conveyed to Iran

PM0812143993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "In an Endeavor To Resume Dialogue, Damascus Conveys New Egyptian Proposals to Iran"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources announced in Cairo yesterday that Damascus has recently conveyed to Tehran a number of new Egyptian proposals reflecting Egyptian demands about the possibility of reopening political dialogue between Cairo and Tehran to end the phase of disagreements and the atmosphere of tension that has blemished relations between the two countries for several years.

Endeavors made by Syria recently failed to improve relations between Cairo and Tehran, although it had earlier succeeded in persuading the two sides to reopen the interests offices in the Egyptian and Iranian capitals.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Syrian move, described as a new phase of mediation between the two countries, came after the statements made by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in which he urged that dialogue channels be opened and relations between the two countries improved. Damascus believes that these statements can lead to progress toward a new phase in these relations and to the suspension of reciprocal accusations, especially Egypt's accusation that Iran is sponsoring extremist elements and inciting them to carry out terrorist actions inside Egypt.

The sources indicated that there seems to be cautious Syrian optimism, especially in the light of the subsidence of counter media campaigns launched as a result of Egypt's accusation that Iran is encouraging the violent acts carried out by extremists, in addition to what it emphasized in the past, namely that Iran is trying to export the Iranian revolution to a number of Arab states, and Egypt's rejection of Iranian attempts to control the region.

There is a prevalent belief that Egypt President Husni Mubarak's statements about the export of terrorist operations without naming Iran as a terrorism-exporting state, and his saying that those who carried out the assassination attempt came from Afghanistan via Yemen, could be a sign of the possibility of reaching the stage of the required improvement in relations with Iran. However, that still depends on Tehran's agreement not to express its hostility toward any Egyptian role in the region, as happened in the wake of the Gulf war.

Trade With Libya at 'Complete Halt'

NC0812221693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Trade between Egypt and Libya has ground to a complete halt immediately following the introduction of international sanctions. The past three days were particularly quiet at the al-Sallum border point. The Libyan dinar dipped to its lowest level, trading for 0.95 of an Egyptian pound, but merchants were reluctant to accept it in settlement of transactions.

The number of Libyans arriving to Egypt has greatly diminished. People arriving from Libya pointed to price increases in that country and said that electrical appliances and other durable goods have disappeared from the shops, to be offered instead on the black market.

Team To Visit Syria To Question Infiltrators

PM0812151993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Delegation To Visit Syria To Follow Up Interrogation of Egyptians"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Egyptian sources in Cairo announced yesterday that a high-ranking security delegation will visit Damascus in the next few days to follow up the interrogation of the Egyptians who had infiltrated across the Syrian borders into Lebanon.

The sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the visit, the first of its kind to Syria, is at the invitation of

the Syrian Interior Ministry undersecretary who visited Cairo last month. The Egyptian delegation will follow up the Syrian authorities' interrogation of a number of Egyptians there who violated the residence regulations by infiltrating into Lebanon. In agreement with the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus, Syria had deported some of them to Egypt. The number of deported Egyptians had reached 50, it was announced.

Authorities Arrest 15 al-Jihad 'Terrorists'

NC0812150793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—The security authorities have arrested 15 terrorists who planned to assassinate a number of officials, security officers, and public figures and to place explosives in some installations to destabilize security.

An Interior Ministry source has stated that these terrorists belong to the al-Jihad organizations, adding that some of them travelled to Afghanistan where they received training on the use of arms and preparation of explosives.

Citizens To Help Police Protect Districts

NC0812172993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi]

[Text] The security agencies have chosen a number of citizens from the villages of al-Qusiyah and Dashlut in the Dayrut area and asked them to carry arms to confront the perpetrators of acts of violence and members of the Islamic groups in these areas. AL-SHA'B has learned that the instructions provide for handing over anyone carrying licensed arms to the police posts in these villages. Four citizens have been chosen and will be accompanied by two policemen to guard a district or a village. Some 35 citizens have been chosen in al-Qusiyah. The national Democratic Party and the municipal council of Dayrut have been tasked with choosing two citizens from every district to join two soldiers to protect a district. An official in Dayrut stressed that the villagers and the police are having an argument about this issue and that the people will not agree to confront the perpetrators of acts of violence because this will create more problems and turn Dayrut into an arena of bloody conflict among the citizens.

Differences in Islamic Group, al-Jihad Viewed

NC0812173293 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Dec 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Text] After the attempted assassination of [Prime Minister] Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, AL-AHALI interviewed a leading figure of the Islamic Group in Upper Egypt. He asserted that the Islamic Group disagrees with the al-Jihad Organization's strategy of action. This strategy, he said, ignores the importance of propaganda among the masses, and relies solely on secretly educating young people and preparing them to carry out sporadic attacks against the regime, conducted whenever they judge that such attacks will undermine it.

The leading Islamic Group figure in Upper Egypt added: Such attacks hinder our own activity as a group whose mode of action depends on public activity in mosques and universities and such methods as leaflets, demonstrations, sit-ins, seminars, and popular conferences. We are forced to reduce our activities following every operation as a result of the indiscriminate arrests and suppression that follow these operations.

He added: As a jihad group, we cannot deny al-Jihad's right to respond to the authorities' provocations as illustrated by the execution of many of their leaders inside prisons after military court verdicts. We hold the regime responsible for all this because it sentenced individuals who are not connected at all with the Vanguards of Conquest to prison terms of up to 15 years, including such persons as Dr. Jamal 'Uthman, a physician in Mallawi.

He added that the security agencies' erroneous announcements on several occasions that they had completely eliminated the Vanguards of Conquest organization by holding four trials of their members provoked al-Jihad's leaders into defiant retaliation against the regime which declared it had eliminated them and the terrorism carried out by the Islamic Group itself in Asyut and Qina Governorates.

He asserted that the lack of shrewd and important leaders in those governorates caused matters to go out of control. What proves this is that fewer clashes with the authorities occurred under the leadership of Dr. Ahmad Abduh, leader of the Islamic Group in Asyut, who is currently imprisoned. He added that the major leaders are found only in al-Minya and Suhaj such as Usamah Hafiz, Sharif 'Abd-al-Majid, and Salah Hashim, which explains the relative calm in those areas despite the constant provocation of the security forces.

Asked about any effective role by current Islamic Group leaders in Upper Egypt, he asserted that they cannot carry out any effective role now for two main reasons: First, if they did so, the security agencies would think that these leaders have much influence all over Upper Egypt and pursue them and even kill them, as happened with Dr. 'Ala' Muhyi-al-Din, who was killed after he became well-known for wide-ranging influence within the Islamic Group. Second, these leaders are not well-known to the new generation of armed members in these governorates.

The Islamic Group official explained: We tried to make the state's security services understand this. We did this on several occasions and suggested to them that the only people who can do anything positive toward calming the situation are the real leaders. So we suggested that they release Dr. Ahmad 'Abduh, leader of the Islamic Group

in Asyut, for a limited period and see what happens. We also proposed that judging by the results, they could later release brother Khalid Radwan, leader of the Aswan group. They refused.

Commenting on the prospects for cooperation between al-Jihad and the Islamic Group, the source asserted that while the Islamic Group has wide influence in Upper Egypt, al-Jihad's influence is limited to Cairo. They have no members in Upper Egypt, he said.

The Islamic Group's official declared: We tried to have a dialogue with them inside the prisons to settle the basic differences between us. So far we have reached no solutions.

Committee Recommends Ban on Professor's Books

NC0812211093 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The al-Azhar's Research, Translation, and Writing Committee has issued a recommendation calling for the confiscation of and a ban on the books of Dr. Nasr Abu-Zayd [a Cairo University professor and known critic of fundamentalist thinking who is facing a lawsuit filed by third parties calling for him to be separated from his wife on charges relating to apostasy]. The committee sent a letter to the Arts Censor Office [al-musannafat al-fanniyah] in which it requested the confiscation of Abu-Zayd's books.

Al-Azhar Grand Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq formed a committee chaired by Dr. Mustafa al-Shak'ah, a former dean of the 'Ayn Shams Liberal Arts College and winner of the State Merit Prize for Literature, and tasked it with studying the following books by Dr. Nasr: Exegesis, A Critique of Theology, and Imam al-Shafi'i.

The committee concluded its work with a 100-page, three-part report in which it expressed the opinion that the author had committed unabashed atheism [al-kufr al-surah]. The committee called for the books to be banned because of their corrupting effect on the public in general and Cairo University students in particular. The committee called for preserving the faith of the students by sparing them contact with the professor's teachings. It also called for him to be denied access to youth communities, particularly the universities and other institutes of learning.

'Zionist,' Egyptian Companies To Build Refinery

NC0812170193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il]

[Text] The Investment Authority has approved a request submitted by the Zionist group Mirhav [name as published] to cooperate with an Egyptian private sector company in building an oil refinery in the free zone in Alexandria.

An official of the Egyptian company confirmed to AL-SHA'B that the Zionist-Egyptian investment project, with a capital of $100 million, is the first joint project between Egyptian and Zionist businessmen.

The official added that the Investment Authority at first rejected the request for this project. But the Zionist side succeeded through its government in applying pressure to start the project, which was approved by the Authority right after the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed.

The official pointed out that the project will soon get the tax and duty exemptions that all projects in the free zones get.

IMF Delegation Meets Officials

NC0812211293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development, today met with the IMF delegation currently visiting Cairo. Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state in the cabinet for international cooperation affairs; Dr. Mahmud Muhammad Bayyumi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Muhammad al-Barbari, deputy governor of the Central Bank, also attended the meeting. After the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur al-Sha'lan, representative of the Arab group at the IMF, said that the various aspects of the Egyptian economic reform program, which is proceeding excellently, were discussed. He noted that all objectives of the program during the first half of the current fiscal year were achieved and that inflation rates dropped to 10.1 percent by October 1993 but the target rate by the end of the current year was 9.5 percent. He noted that the general budget deficit during December 1993 is expected to reach the target rate of 2.6 percent of the gross local output.

Dr. al-Sha'lan pointed out that monetary developments in Egypt have been reviewed and they showed that the ratio of deposits in dollars are decreasing in relation to the total deposits, which affirms continued confidence in the Egyptian currency, a continued surplus in the balance of payments, and an increase in foreign currency reserves. Concluding his statement, he said that the Egyptian party and the IMF emphasized the Egyptian economy's ability to grow and to increase its revenues, particularly the industrial and productive investment commodities [words indistinct]. He pointed out that he expects the national income growth rate to increase, noting that the signs of continued growth of the national economy are encouraging.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Defense Against 'Enemy'

LD0712211993 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 dec 93

[Address by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the "masses of al-Nawahi al-Arba'h and al-Khums"; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, sons of al-Nawahi al-Arba'h and Suq al-Khamis [as heard], grandsons of the brave mujahidin, today we salute your martyred fathers and forefathers who sacrificed themselves and everything dear to defend this land, honor, Arabism and Islam. [passage omitted]

Brothers, be prepared, if the need arises, to again defend the city of Tripoli, Tripoli of the Arabs, the immortal Tripoli. Once again be prepared to repeat what your fathers and forefathers did when they competed for martyrdom and death. They rose up, women and men, to defend Tripoli. They rose up to give the enemy a lesson, brothers, and they gave him a lesson that he will never forget.

Brothers, I am very proud of you because your fathers and forefathers made an honorable history. A history we are proud of in front of nations. [passage omitted]

I am very proud of you and I very much rely on you, if the need arises, to march toward Tripoli, once again, to ward off the enemy, and if the need arises to defend the Libyan land and the land of Arabism everywhere. I am proud of you and I know very well that you would rise up as your fathers and forefathers did. This time you will not be competing only on horseback but aboard tanks and armored vehicles, carrying guns, rocket launchers, machine guns and automatic rifles, which your fathers and forefathers did not have and which were owned by the enemy only at that time. However, the formidable weapons in the hands of the enemy at that time did not intimidate your fathers or forefathers. They competed to die and competed to wage the honorable battle, which was inevitable and inescapable; either death and martyrdom or victory. [passage omitted]

Lockerbie Defendants' Attorney Interviewed

NC0812162793 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 2

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, coordinator of the defense panel for the Libyans accused of involvement in the Lockerbie case, by Dr. Rif'at Sayyid Ahmad in Tripoli; date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] What is the situation in the Lockerbie issue following the recent Security Council resolution in which the United States, Britain, and France intensified the siege of Libya?

[Al-Ghuwayl] The latest Security Council resolution has regrettably incorporated what the three countries have been tirelessly demanding. They have pushed the Security Council into taking regrettable and shameful stances. They have come to the point where they complain that there has been no response to their demands. They have even gone as far as to interpret the first demand as meaning that the suspects have to go to Scotland or the United States, even though it does not say anything of the sort. The resolution talks about a response to the demands of the two countries (the United States and Britain). It is true that the two countries' demands were illegal. The Security Council did not adopt them in full but adopted the issue of response and cooperation in accordance with international law. This resolution (731) does not impose extradition or take away Libya's jurisdiction because international conventions give jurisdiction to the Libyan judiciary. The demand for extradition is meaningless because it is illegal according to Libyan and international law. There was no justification for interpreting the Security Council resolution outside the framework of international law because the charter itself says: According to Article 24, Clause 1 (when the Security Council is given the mandate to speak on behalf of the United Nations or the General Assembly, it also gives it the prerogative within the limits of the UN principles and objectives that call for justice, equal sovereignty, and human rights), all the demands in the recent Security Council resolution are illegal. They are demanding compensation for the victims before the trial. This shows that they are prejudging the case, passing sentence, and not even considering that the suspects might be innocent. The same applies to their refusal to brief us on their case and their so-called evidence, and their demand that Libya present any evidence it has on the suspects' innocence.

The only explanation for the recent resolution is that it is meant to exert pressure on Libya so that the state will exert pressure on the suspects and make them waive their legal right to a fair trial.

The recent resolution is a declaration that, as a result of pressure (from the United States and Britain), the Security Council cannot speak in accordance with its charter, international law, or human rights.

[Ahmad] What are the details of the story of the Libyan eyewitness who, according to the claims of the United States and Britain, informed on the two Libyan defendants and presented documents to prove it?

[Al-Ghuwayl] They have only one person, who is named 'Abd-al-Majid al-Ja'aj. I hope that we will meet in a fair trial before the world. I will bring his psychological file and they will understand that they do not have a sane man they can rely on. They must realize that I will challenge them if they bring him to court because he is mad. I believe that this is part of their problem because they followed the illusions of a mad man. Their case suffers from fundamental defects. It becomes farcical when you break it down into its components. They are talking about this person and he is mentally unbalanced. "Coleman," a senior U.S. intelligence man on which they relied, has published a book *Trial of the Octopus* in which he tells the real story that he says U.S. sources are aware of. He stressed in the book that the issue has nothing to do with Libya. This book tells the story of the octopus inside secret U.S. circles that deals with organizations that sell weapons and with secret organizations. A little bit more and things would not be moving in the direction they want.

[Ahmad] You are saying that you have a file on this eyewitness ('Abd-al-Majid al-Ja'aj) that says that he is mentally unbalanced. Can you tell us about it?

[Al-Ghuwayl] I have eyewitnesses from Malta who saw this eyewitness dabble in magic and sorcery and say that he believed that he could cure maladies in his stomach. He had some problems because he had married a Maltese woman and it was difficult for him to return to his homeland. As a result of his difficult circumstances, he made these allegations, which were picked up by people who needed to divert suspicion away from those whom they knew were the real culprits.

[Ahmad] Are you expecting your clients to be acquitted if a fair trial is held?

[Al-Ghuwayl] My duty as a lawyer is to know that there is no convincing evidence for conviction and that the defendants are innocent. With the documents I have in my possession and the assertion that my clients are innocent, I am confident that it will be possible for me to know in which direction the accusations are moving.

[Ahmad] What has happened to the Libyan contacts and the offers to have the two Libyans tried in a neutral country?

[Al-Ghuwayl] We have always said that we are only seeking the truth. I have letters from the families of the victims and from the official spokesman of the victims' families in Scotland in which he says (I am with you in seeking the truth and with you in not accusing other innocent ones, and this is why I support your idea of a third or a neutral country). This idea (of a third country) was proposed to Bush when he was in Switzerland (Zurich) on 24 August 1993. A Swiss lawyer proposed the idea of a third, neutral country, such as Switzerland. Bush said: If I were in Clinton's place, I would agree and lift the sanctions on Libya. This idea of a third country is a splendid one. They do not trust Libyan justice and we have no confidence that the defendants will have a fair trial in the two countries' courts. We looked for a compromise, a third country where the trial could be held. We are ready to agree to stand before Egypt's courts on the basis that the Egyptian attorney general can summon the appropriate authorities in the United States and Scotland to help the prosecution. This arrangement can be done. We have said that we are ready to place the defendants at the disposal of the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League. When this solution fell on deaf ears, we said that we could stand before the court of any Mediterranean country, such as Greece, Italy, or Spain. But this was also rejected. We accepted any neutral country, such as Switzerland or Sweden, but they rejected that as well as if there is no justice in any place except Scotland or the United States. This insistence shows that they want to conduct the trial their way, because they would have accepted a trial in a neutral country if they had had strong evidence. I do not believe that either Switzerland or Sweden are closer to us than they are to them, but they are not confident of the evidence they have while we are confident of the evidence in our possession.

[Ahmad] How would the trial in a neutral country be held if the United States and Britain accepted it?

[Al-Ghuwayl] We said that we would sign an agreement with the United States, Britain, the neutral country, and all other concerned countries so that the trial would be recognized and the two suspects would not be tried again on the same charge. I will accept the ruling, whether conviction or acquittal, provided the trial is fair and the evidence is presented to us. So far, they have not shown us the evidence. To prove that we are serious and so that we would not be accused of procrastination and delaying tactics, we offered to place the suspects at the disposal of any neutral party, such as the Arab League Seven-Member Committee. We are ready to send the suspects to the Arab League tomorrow, and we are ready to sit down with anyone seeking a genuine trial.

[Ahmad] It is being said that the main reason for the failure to hand over the suspects is their family relationship with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. How true is this?

[Al-Ghuwayl] This is not true. It is the suspects' legal and human rights that prevent their extradition. I was delegated to represent them from the beginning; that is, for two years now. From the very beginning, I told the Libyan secretary of justice (Ibrahim Bakkar): "Look, I have been asked to represent the two, and I would like to tell you frankly that if anyone tries to harm them, I will contest him in court. I am ready to cooperate with you as soon as you receive the indictment. You can interrogate or remand them, but if you take any other step, I will challenge you in court."

There is no family relationship between the suspects and 'Abd-al- Salam Jallud, but one of the suspects belongs to the (Maqarhi) tribe, from which Jallud also comes. This was falsely used to link the two. Regarding al-Qadhdhafi, the suspects are no relation to him whatsoever.

[Ahmad] Some observers believe that the reason behind the American-Western intransigence and escalation of the crisis is the desire to achieve Arab normalization and settlement with Israel without any clamor from Libya; they want Libya to keep silent.

[Al-Ghuwayl] This is more like it. I have been handling the case for two years without sensing any intention to achieve a solution. They intend to keep the country in a state of blockade and tension, and they are going all out to do it. They want to prevent Libya's voice from being heard on other issues. It is a strange coincidence: The United States first accused "other parties," and then moved the suspicion to Libya. This coincided with the convening of the Madrid conference in 1991. The accusation was moved from other sides to Libya. It is said that at that time Thatcher telephoned Bush and agreed

that the accusations be directed toward Libya. There are witnesses to this telephone conversation, and we hope to place it before the court.

[Ahmad] How do you see the future of the Lockerbie crisis? What new proposals do you have to resolve it and is this related to the US strategy in the Arab and Islamic region?

[Al-Ghuwayl] The crisis could be resolved legally if there was a will to do so. The easiest way would be to accept a third neutral country, and any reasonable person would accept this solution. Putting pressure on Libya will not lead to anything. The Libyan Government cannot do more than it has done. We will not abandon our human and legal rights. I always say that the one dimension the Arab media has failed to highlight is that this case involves human rights. There is (a right for the suspects) to obtain a fair trial, and there is a right that the trial be conducted by unbiased judges who presume that the suspects are innocent. The missing point is that the Libyan Government is not refusing the extradition, but cannot make an illegal extradition. They seek a confrontation with the Arab revolution in Libya, want to succeed with the normalization [with Israel], and hate any voice that emphasizes the independence of this region. The United States has controlled the region's oil resources by instigating the war with Iraq. Now it wants to control Libya's oil, thus being in a position to strangle Europe and Japan. From a cultural point of view, France played an abnormal role in this case. It wanted to create a collision between the United States and Libya because it was afraid of the Libyan Arab Islamic activity within Africa against the Francophone policy. So, France wanted to put Libya on a collision course with the United States and thought that the United States wanted to liquidate the French influence in Africa. Because of this belief, France though it was in its interest to escalate the problems between Libya and the United States.

For its part, Libya joined the Arab Maghreb Union in an attempt to be a link between the Maghreb and the eastern part of the Arab homeland, but the West does not want this. The West wants the Arab Maghreb to be a bridge for Europe to reach the heart of Africa. In the meantime, the United States does not want the West and Europe alone to be in control of Africa. So, it is a universal struggle for interests. Based on all this, if the United States wants to liquidate the Arab revolution in Libya, it would be better for it to stand against Libya in an honorable way. It is not honorable for the United States to fabricate excuses by accusing two innocent people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ghanaian Leader

LD0912102693 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpt] President Jerry Rawlings of the Republic of Ghana arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. A formal ceremony was held to welcome the Ghanaian president and the brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] was at the forefront of those welcoming him. [passage omitted]

[Tripoli JANA in English at 0841 GMT on 9 December, in a Tripoli-datelined item, adds the following: "A closed meeting was held last night between the leader of the revolution and Jerry Rawlings, the president of Ghana."]

Sudan

Attorney General Attacks UN Human Rights Report

EA0812195593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice, attorney general, and leader of Sudan's delegation to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, presented a report today to the Transitional National Assembly concerning Sudan's participation in this session which was earmarked for human rights conditions.

The minister referred to a report presented by Gaspar Biro, special liaison to the human rights committee concerning Sudan. The minister explained that the report was an attack on Sudan, and that a great deal of it was untrue.

His excellency emphasized the importance of Sudan's participation in the work of the [word indistinct] committee of the UN General Assembly. He pointed out some states which supported Sudan, including China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and a number of Arab, Islamic and African states. He affirmed that this support explains the great progress made by Sudan in developing its foreign relations. Mr. Shiddu said that diplomatic maneuvers were necessary by some countries to explain other countries viewpoints towards Gaspar Biro's report, particularly toward those states which abstained from voting.

UN Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Arrives

EA0912101993 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—UN secretary-general's special envoy for humanitarian affairs Vieri Traxler arrived here Tuesday [7 December] on a nine-day visit to review implementation of agreement reached with the Sudanese Government in August. The UN official is expected to meet on Thursday with the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference's secretary-general Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, and senior officials at the Social Planning Ministry.

Traxler's visit aims at following up implementation of the August agreement and other agreements between Sudan's Government and [the] United Nations as well as

discussing further measures and means for transporting humanitarian aids to the war-affected population in southern Sudan.

Traxler said in a press statement that his Sudan visit is a humanitarian not political [one], aimed at following up execution of the Nairobi accord in December between [the] United Nations, Sudan and the rebels' various factions on transportation of relief to the war-hit citizens in the south. An agreement will be signed within the Nairobi accord for implementing the said agreement, he said.

He described the talks with the Sudanese officials during his visit to the Sudan on 5th August as "positive" and expressed optimism over the success of his mission and Sudan Government's keenness on transporting up relief to the war-ravaged citizens in southern Sudan.

Former Premier's Car Seized; Strike in Madani

PM0812145593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Extreme Tension After Strike in Sudan's Second Biggest Town; al-Mahdi's Car Confiscated and His Driver Arrested"]

[Excerpts] London, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to sources in the Sudanese opposition Ummah Party, the Sudanese security authorities have confiscated a car belonging to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, and arrested its driver Adam Musa. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile independent Sudanese sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there is extreme tension in the town of Madani in the central sector—the second biggest Sudanese city after Khartoum.

The sources said that the town's traders staged a strike 10 days ago after leaflets signed by "the freemen of Wad Madani" called for a general strike in the town. The sources added that the strike was highly successful. [passage omitted]

Ummah Leader Says Regime Lacks Legitimacy

PM0812104593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 93 p 7

[Interview with 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the Sudanese Ummah Party, by Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ahmad] Some influential world powers clearly sympathize with the idea of self-determination. Political analysts believe that self-determination would certainly lead to secession under the current regime. What is your role in preserving Sudan's unity?

[Nur-al-Da'im] The political movement in the South has been talking about self-determination leading to secession since 1955, that is since the Torit events. As far as the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Movement [SPLM] is concerned, since its split in 1991 Riek Mashar has been leading the secessionist trend in collaboration with the Khartoum government, which has paid all the secessionist bills and opened the way for foreign interference. The main trend led by John Garang has maintained its pro-unity position even at the Washington seminar, but it did raise the issue of self-determination three times: In the Torit declaration after the split in the movement, at the first Abuja conference where attempts were made to reunify the movement, and at the Washington seminar.

What is important is that the regional and international atmosphere and events in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Eritrea made discussion of self-determination acceptable to world opinion. Now it is the duty of the political movements in the North and South to address the issue positively and to work energetically and resolutely for the preservation of the country's unity, by agreeing with the southerners to dispel all the legitimate fears intensified by the current regime which has fueled this war, given it a religious dimension, ruined both northern and southern Sudan, and imposed repression and despotism on the Sudanese people. That regime, which has become an obstacle in the way of solving Sudan's problems, should be terminated. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] While the West appears to be interested in Sudan's fate and is sympathetic to the idea of self-determination, there seems to be no similar interest in Arab circles. Is that because the regime is isolated, or is it because of the lack of communication between the opposition and the Arab states?

[Nur-al-Da'im] There can be no doubt that West Europe, led by Germany and France, is working for self-determination and for the South's secession, particularly since it became clear that there is no hope of a peaceful solution under the current regime and that the tempo of the war and its tragedies have redoubled in recent years, bearing in mind that the Western states pay $500 million a year for the relief of war victims.

That perhaps explains the sympathy with Dr. Riek Mashar and his agreement with Sudanese regime official 'Ali al-Hajj in the German city of Frankfurt. It also explains the European attacks on John Garang for upholding the banner of united Sudan, and the European pressure on him to agree to self-determination.

As regards the American position, although it sympathizes with the right of self-determination, it focuses on restoration of democracy, pluralism, human issues such as human rights and relief, and the fight against terrorism. The American position would welcome Sudanese unity if these other objectives were fulfilled. That is a position which could be developed positively.

It is regrettable that the Arab states are not showing any significant interest in what is going on in Sudan despite its threat to pan-Arab security and to the future of Afro-Arab relations on the African continent, where 6

percent [as published] of the Arab entity is located. The Gulf war and its devastating effects and the decline of the Soviet Union have undoubtedly led to a total paralysis and have prevented the nation from playing its part at the Arab, African, and Islamic levels.

We have explained to all the Arab states the seriousness of what is going on in Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] There has been a crisis in Egyptian-Sudanese relations over the issues of Hala'ib and terrorism. What is your frank opinion?

[Nur-al-Da'im] All the main political forces in Sudan agree that the regime is a usurper and lacks legitimacy, either revolutionary or constitutional, and that the Sudanese people are unrepresented. We therefore believe that the Egyptian brothers are above imposing any new realities in the absence of the Sudanese people. They should not deal with that regime except on marginal issues. I am confident that the Ummah Party, the Unionist Party, the southerners, and the Sudanese Left are all eager to turn over a new leaf with Egypt and tackle all issues through cordial dialogue and faith in the future and to reach a full strategic agreement that would safeguard Egyptian-Sudanese relations regardless of who rules Egypt or Sudan. Concluding any political agreement with that illegitimate regime would harm relations between the two fraternal peoples.

As regards the other point on the issue of terrorism, the Sudanese regime will continue to aid the terrorist groups in Egypt and other countries because that is the nature and structure of the regime, particularly since the [National Islamic] Front [NIF] became a repressive, dictatorial party using terrorism as a main way of dealing with the people of Sudan. Now that the regime has failed and could fall any day, it has a vested interest in the presence of terrorist groups to protect it from the people's revolution which, God willing, will come. That is why all local, regional, and international efforts should be pooled to contain the terrorist groups' activities. Sudan has, regrettably, become a springboard for these groups. We hope that this abnormal situation which undermines our people's reputation will be rectified the first day after that regime's downfall. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] The current regime in Sudan has declared that it is prepared to come to some understanding over everything except pluralism and the accommodation of the old parties' symbols. What do you think of that?

[Nur-al-Da'im] I do not believe that anyone in Sudan is now interested in coming to any understanding with that regime after the calamity that has befallen the people of Sudan. We, who seek a national peaceful solution, believe in holding a regional conference with the regime, under UN supervision, to make the necessary arrangements to stop the war and produce agreement among the political forces providing for the restoration of democracy and freedom and the return of power to the people. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Many people blame the [National] Grouping for weakness in facing the regime and believe that the regime can only survive because of the opposition's weakness.

[Nur-al-Da'im] From the first week of the coup, the political forces were convinced that the coup was planned, financed, and carried out by the NIF. And so the National Grouping, with its internal and external branches, was formed to bring down the NIF's dictatorship and restore freedom and democracy for the people of Sudan. At home the opposition has succeeded in confronting the regime in all fields and has paid a high price in the form of imprisonment, torture, killing, displacement, impoverishment, and starvation. That steadfastness has led to the isolation of the regime and the decline of support for it. Now everyone is optimistic that victory against the regime is within reach.

Abroad, the Grouping has been active at all levels. As a result the regime has been internationally isolated and exposed on such issues as human rights, escalation of the war in the South, discontinuation of the peace process, and the construction of bases for terrorist groups in Sudan. Furthermore, the Grouping has held numerous conferences and was able to prepare thorough studies on matters of the economy, the constitution, administration, constitutional institutions, unionist, partisan, and military reform, and other topics to secure its future march. But what the external Grouping might be blamed for is that it has continued to work through a horizontal coordination committee, which slowed down effective urgent decisions, particularly as the pace of events has been faster than the pace of the Grouping. Hence the inclination to create a new structure for the Grouping about which the members were not enthusiastic in the past.

I expect the main issues to be resolved at the Grouping's next meeting, which was supposed to be held about now but the escalation of the war in the South and the cease-fire violations by the government and Riek Mashar prompted Dr. John Garang to request postponement of the meeting to give him and his colleagues the chance to attend.

[Ahmad] It has been reported that the regime has drawn up a plan to protect the capital against countercoups and against possible foreign interference in collaboration with the opposition.

[Nur-al-Da'im] I have no knowledge of any regime plan for the protection of the capital against countercoups. That regime has carried out a systematic liquidation of the armed forces under which over 4,000 of the best officers have been ousted. The regime has no right to speak in the named of the armed forces. [passage omitted]

As regards the claims about a military invasion in collaboration with the opposition, that is a media gimmick by the regime to win the sympathy of the ordinary people who have been savaged by famine and malaria.

The regime has really collapsed and disintegrated from within, and its downfall is the only way out. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, Sudanese Prisoners Released

NC0912112393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 9 Dec (MENA)—Sudanese authorities this morning released the four Egyptian nationals who were being held in Sudan. They are Hisham Hamdi, director of Midi Trade Company, who has been detained since 24 June; Hammad Muhammad Hammad Isma'il, director of the Egyptian school, which is annexed to the embassy; Henry Musa Salamah, director of the Egyptian Embassy Club and a member of the school's administrative staff; and Hasan 'Abd-al-'Azim al-'Azzazi, an accountant at the Egyptian commercial center. The last three have been detained since [figure indistinct] November.

Hisham Hamdi, released today; and Qasim Ahmad Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jalil, of the Misr Reinforced Steel Company; al-Sayyid Marzuq; and Salah al-Haddad, of the Egyptian commercial center; who were all released on 7 November, left Khartoum for Cairo on board an Egyptian plane this morning.

The five Sudanese nationals who were detained in Egypt arriving in Khartoum on the same plane this morning were: Azhari Bashir Ahmad, Khalid Harun, Haytham Muhammad 'Uthman, Yasir Ahmad Husayn, and Ahmad Mahmud Tawfiq. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Minister Denies Reports of Rabin Tunis Trip

NC0812160193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, 8 Dec (MENA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya has denied Western media reports that Israeli Prime Minister Yithzaq Rabin will visit Tunis soon to discuss normalizing bilateral relations.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Tunis, Ben Yahya said his country knows nothing of an expected meeting between Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis in the second half of December.

Ben Yahya said he heard of these reports from the media.

Ukrainian President Meets Ben Ali, Departs

Presidents Discuss Regional Issues

LD0812174493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] At the second round of talks that took place this morning at Carthage Palace between Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Leonid Kravchuk, the two presidents reviewed the results achieved by the two delegations with respect to Tunisian-Ukrainian relations.

The official spokesman for the presidency pointed out that the two presidents expressed their satisfaction at these results and at the determination that motivated the two sides to achieve fresh steps toward strengthening them, particularly by signing a statement of the principles of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Ukraine and the conclusion of a number of agreements on bilateral cooperation in the economic and commercial spheres and in the spheres of air transport, water, as well as scientific and technological cooperation.

The official spokesman added that the two presidents also carried out a general review of current issues, in particular the Middle East peace process, and expressed their great interest in pushing the negotiations toward achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the problems of the region. In the forefront of these problems is the issue of the Palestinian people, especially after the signing of the agreement on 13 September and the efforts currently being made to achieve progress on the different tracks of the peace process.

The two presidents also dealt with the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this context, the official spokesman pointed out that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali renewed his concern at the pains and ordeals to which the Bosnian people were being subjected and the Tunisian people's solidarity with them. He affirmed the necessity to push forward the negotiations currently under way to put an end to this human tragedy.

On the other hand, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reviewed with the Ukrainian president the prospects for cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union and the Black Sea countries. The official spokesman said that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk expressed his appreciation for the landmarks of civilization renaissance and development he saw in Tunisia and the honor and welcome he was accorded in our country and invited His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to visit Ukraine. The head of state accepted the invitation on condition that its date be determined at a later stage. The talks were enlarged to include the two countries' delegations.

Communique on Cooperation Signed

LD0812164693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] An official ceremony was organized at Carthage Palace this morning during which the two presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Leonid Kravchuk, signed a communique on the principles of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Tunisia and Ukraine.

On this occasion, the head of state delivered a speech in which he said in particular: I would like, after signing this historic communique, to express our satisfaction

and happiness at the principles and spheres of cooperation it contained, all of which form an important framework for strengthening the friendship between our countries and peoples and broadening the fields of cooperation and consultation between us in response to the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries and to the benefit of issues relating to peace in the world.

For his part, the Ukrainian president expressed his thanks to his excellency the president for the generous hospitality he received in Tunisia and for President Ben Ali's kind words during this ceremony.

He also thanked the president for giving him the opportunity to visit Tunisia, saying he had benefitted to a large extent from this visit, which had opened up fresh scope for expanding and strengthening relations between the two countries.

The ceremony took place in the presence of members of the government and members of the delegation accompanying the Ukrainian president.

Kravchuk Departs

LD0812175693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpts] An official ceremony was held at Carthage Palace this morning to bid Ukranian President Leonid Kravchuk farewell at the end of his official visit to Tunisia during which he held talks with President Ben Ali on bilateral talks and topical issues. [passage omitted]

President Kravchuk and his wife visited the city of Hammamet this morning. [passage omitted]

Ukranian President Leonid Kravchuk has ended his three-day official visit to the Republic of Tunisia. The Ukranian president, his wife, and the delegation accompanying them left Monastir International Airport soon after 1600 hours. They were seen off by Culture Minister Monj Bousnina. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Deputies Query Case for More Military Spending

PM0812130193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti National Assembly Links Approval of the Defense Budget to the Resolution of the Issue of Past 'Excesses'"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A total of 26 deputies representing the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Finance, Fact-Finding, and Interior and Defense Committees yesterday underscored the need for the defense minister to give the National Assembly a clear concept of Kuwait's defense strategy, with all its political, economic, and military dimensions, to pave the way for the approval of the supplementary military budget bill which the National Assembly has left pending since its previous session.

This came in a statement by 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Samad, member of the Finance and Fact-Finding committees, after the meeting of the three committees which discussed the supplementary military defense budget bill previously rejected by the Kuwaiti National Assembly, which made its approval subject to resolution of the questions raised regarding excesses in the Kuwaiti armament budget.

In his statement to reporters, Deputy 'Abd-al-Samad said that all the deputies agreed that it was important to consolidate security, but the parliamentary discussions focused on the need for dialogue with the government on the defense strategy in order to find the best ways of strengthening it.

He said that the National Assembly's Finance Committee's rejection of the supplementary military budget bill last year was made on various grounds. The first was that there was a need for the budget to include all public expenditures and revenues including defense expenditures. Second, there was some question about the the defense strategy, its effectiveness, and its chances of success if put to any practical test under the conditions which prevailed before the occupation of Kuwait. Third, there was a need to know whether discipline was observed when arms purchase contracts were signed. There was also some question as to Kuwait's ability to spend at that rate without internal security repercussions resulting from lack of financial resources to meet other needs.

'Abd-al-Samad said that there was a parliamentary tendency to seek the creation of control organs in the National Assembly and in the government to supervise military expenditure.

Asked about a previous statement by the defense minister to the effect that failure to approve the defense budget would adversely affect Kuwait's security capabilities, 'Abd-al-Samad said the Assembly had allowed the government to seek a special budget for the current year to meet existing commitments, to be deducted from the general budget without affecting the defense budget, as a first step until the Assembly resolves the issue of the supplementary budget.

It is worth noting that the supplementary budget is 3.5 billion dinars over a period of 12 years.

The National Assembly will hold a meeting with the defense minister next Wednesday on the same subject. [passage omitted]

Senior Parliamentarian To Hold Off Resigning

PM0812114593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Questions About al-Saqr's Resignation From Chairmanship of Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Committee"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The speaker and members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly yesterday intensified their efforts to persuade Deputy Jasim al-Saqr to abandon his resignation from the chairmanship of the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee. While Deputy al-Saqr declined to make any statement, he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the resignation "is still suspended." However, he declined to go into any details.

Parliamentary sources have said that al-Saqr has actually agreed to delay the final decision on the resignation for a week, but without this meaning his backtracking on his decision.

The same sources stressed that Deputy al-Saqr continues to insist on his resignation despite the numerous attempts made by the speaker and members of the National Assembly and some government circles to persuade him to reconsider his decision and stay in his post.

The sources emphasize that there is no disagreement between Deputy al-Saqr and any other government or parliamentary party—which raises numerous questions about the reasons for the resignation.

Al-Saqr was reelected to the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee some time ago. He is an experienced political and parliamentary figure who enjoys long experience and a good reputation. He entered the National Assembly elections representing the "Constitutional Grouping" tendency. He is the Assembly's most senior member.

It is not known whether the resignation is linked to the issue of relations with "hostile states" [those which supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait] issue, which is opposed by some parliamentary quarters and supported by others.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Views Christopher's 'Remarkable Success'

LD0812135893 Riyadh SPA in English 1251 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Dec 8, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on a number of local and international issues. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the current tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East, the Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said it is gratifying to note that so far, the tour has achieved a remarkable success although Christopher opted to keep silent about its results until he concludes it and returns to Washington with firm commitments from all sides.

One of the successes of this tour was the acceptance of Israel, Palestine, Syria and Jordan to resume the peace talks in Washington in or before the end of January, the paper said. This was in itself a vital result for the Arab, American and international efforts seeking to bring about peace in the Middle East, the paper added. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Letter From Russia's Yeltsin

JN0812120993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin dealing with bilateral relations.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received the letter on behalf of the president, during his meeting this afternoon with Oleg Derkovskiy, Russia's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Yemen

German U.S. Oil Company Employee Kidnapped, Freed

NC0812144593 Paris AFP in English 1419 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 8 (AFP)—Yemeni tribesmen seized a German working for the U.S. Hunt Oil company and held him for two days, in the second kidnapping of a Western national in as many weeks, the German embassy said Wednesday.

The German, named only as M. Kohnert, said following his release on Monday that he was "well treated" by his abductors, members of the Bakil tribal group. No details emerged of the kidnappers' demands.

The trainee with Hunt Oil was kidnapped near Sanaa on Saturday.

It was the second such kidnapping within two weeks in Yemen, which has been rocked by a political crisis pitting President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih against his southern rival Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Members of the Jaham tribe—which belongs to the Bakil group—kidnapped the head of the United States Information Service in Yemen, Haynes Mahoney, and held him for a week at the end of November.

Mahoney was held hostage over a financial dispute with the government and Hunt Oil.

The abductors sought the payment of back royalties from oil wells sunk on their land and charged the government had reneged on a promise to hire 200 tribesmen to protect Hunt Oil's installations in the region.

The German embassy said the Yemeni Government had made no concession to Kohnert's kidnappers.

The Bakil, who make up two-thirds of the population of northern Yemen, complain they are not fairly represented in the government. Informed sources say they have established closer links with the vice president.

House Debates Rule of Law, Guarding Unity

JN0812153393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session this morning under brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, staff member of the Speaker's Office of the House of Representatives.

Having reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous session, the people's deputies debated the report submitted to the House by the follow-up committee assigned the task of finding the facts pertaining to the current political crisis.

The report was enriched by important remarks made by deputies. These remarks underscored and complemented the content of the report. The people's deputies affirmed the need to apprehend and try those charged with assassinations and explosions, the last of which is the case of the assassination of student Kamil 'Abdallah al-Hamid and Army Major Ahmad Muhammad al-Shami. All sharia, criminal, and personal status cases must be settled. The rulings of Islamic sharia must be implemented. The law must be upheld, the deputies noted.

The debate by the deputies affirmed that Yemeni unity is the choice of the people, and that in order to safeguard this unity, dialogue on disputed issues must continue in order to reach the proper solutions. The deputies underscored the need to avoid any escalation of the crisis. They said some newspapers that speak for some political parties and organizations have continued to engage in media vituperation. The House of Representatives said

this must be halted in the statement it issued on the current crisis on 5 November 1993.

The House will continue its meetings Saturday morning, God willing.

Council Views Economic Impact of Crisis

JN0912144393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] The Presidential Council met under Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today. It discussed several issues and topics pertaining to the efforts to build a modern Yemeni state—a state of order, law, and constitutional institutions—and other important topics, as well.

The Council examined Yemeni developments, particularly the negative repercussions and impact of the political crisis on economic and development efforts in the country. It discussed ways to resolve this issue, and instructed the government to expedite the process of adopting effective remedial measures to check these repercussions in order to achieve stability and peace in the country and safeguard all national accomplishments, foremost among which are unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

The Council was apprised of the results of the dialogue under way among the parties to the coalition government, namely, the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, as well as with the opposition [words indistinct] to find a way out of the current political crisis plaguing the country.

The Presidential Council expressed concern for [words indistinct] this dialogue [words indistinct] responsible democracy to promote the higher national interest and safeguard the homeland's unity and its democratic course. It affirmed the importance of [words indistinct] dialogue by identifying proper implementation mechanisms and setting proper timetables to implement the measures upon which agreement is reached [words indistinct] national constants to enhance the spirit of the National Charter, ensure the continuation of construction efforts in our country, and realize the hopes and aspirations of our Yemeni people in terms of construction, progress, and building a unified and democratic Yemeni state.

The Presidential Council was also apprised of the activities of the [words indistinct] it was apprised of the content of the message King Husayn Bin-Talal of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan sent to the brother Presidential Council chairman, which was relayed by brother Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court. This message affirmed the fraternal Jordanians' concern about unity and democracy in our country, and also about the need to approximate views [words indistinct] the challenges facing our country as a result of the current political crisis.

The Council was also briefed on the content of the message sent [words indistinct] by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, relayed to the brother president by brother Sulayman (?al-Shukur), secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity in the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. This message expressed concern about consecrating the march of unity and democracy in our country, as well as fraternal Libya's support for all the good offices aimed at resolving all difficulties and challenges facing Yemen at present.

The Council was also apprised of the outcome of the talks held between Presidential Council member Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani and a delegation of the Afghan Government, which addressed a host of issues that are of common interest to our country and the Republic of Afghanistan.

Furthermore, the Council discussed a host of topics listed on its agenda, and adopted the proper decisions and recommendations on them.

YSP Minister 'Optimistic' on Interparty Dialogue

PM0812115993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Jarallah 'Umar, Yemeni culture minister and member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau, by Arlit Khuri in Paris "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [Khuri] What do you expect with regard to developments in the present crisis in Yemen?

['Umar] Any crisis can be resolved. The dialogue is continuing between the Yemeni parties, and it will continue because there is no other means except dialogue and understanding. Brother Prime Minister (Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas) is in Sanaa, performing his duties and leading the current dialogue. Consultations are proceeding easily among the various parties.

[Khuri] Do you believe there will agreement to the request to withdraw the Armed Forces from cities?

['Umar] I believe it is easy to meet that request if there are good intentions and mutual trust. This is because withdrawing the Armed Forces from the cities is in everyone's interests and the interests of Yemen in general and the Armed Forces as well. It is also in the interests of development and democracy. Thus I believe that this request will be accepted and implemented, because Yemen must move toward progress and civilized practice. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] So why is 'Ali Salim al-Bid still in Aden if the prospects for a solution are available?

['Umar] I did not say that there are no basic reasons for the dispute. On the contrary, the existing dispute has its causes, which are objective in nature and linked to citizens' issues, the states, and unity. As for brother

al-Bid's presence in Aden, it is a new Yemeni way of conducting a dialogue from a distance. In my view, it will lead to an understanding being reached and direct friction averted. A dialogue from a distance can be fruitful sometimes. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] Are you optimistic or pessimistic with regard to the relationship between the two parties in the short term?

['Umar] I am still optimistic, because regardless of their differences, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the General People's Congress [GPC] will continue to be partners in the Yemeni ships sailing amid violent waves. Neither can negate the other. This is why I expect them to return to dialogue and coexistence, completely abandoning the desire to marginalize one another. [passage omitted]

[Khuri] What is your opinion of King Husayn's invitation to hold a meeting in Amman between the two Yemeni parties?

['Umar] These are cordial efforts which we welcome and are pleased with, because everyone is urging us to reach an understanding. Many people care about Yemeni unity. But a solution lies before everything else in the belief of the YSP and GPC leaderships and the other Yemeni parties that there is a crisis requiring a solution and that a solution requires concessions and sacrifices. [passage omitted]

YSP Leaders Discuss Current Crisis

PM0812162793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "Socialist Party Accuses Iraq of Interfering in Yemeni Crisis"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders yesterday held consultations in Aden, including a meeting between YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid and YSP Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad on the latest developments related to the country's crisis.

A responsible source at the YSP Information Center in Aden said yesterday that "the political crisis in Yemen is still interacting and has assumed a more dangerous dimension. There is still military tension. A combat alert has been in force since dawn last Friday in the ranks of the forces formerly attached to the Yemen Arab Republic (the reference is to the period before unity was declared on 22 May 1990). [no end quotes as published]

It should be noted that the YSP Information Center in Aden is headed by Salim Salih.

The source emphasized that "a group of 12 Iraqi military experts arrived recently in al-Kabsi camp in the southern region of Radfan, confirming that there are Iraqi hands behind the political crisis in Yemen." He added: "This has generated great fears in broad political circles in the country that the Iraqi experts might be planning a civil war in which they think one side would easily win. Military experts and political analysts, however, stress that there is a real balance between the forces of the two sides in Yemen and that, in the event of an outbreak of violence, there would be no winners and no losers and the country would be driven to a situation similar to that in Somalia." [passage omitted]

Reform Grouping's Al-Ahmar Rejects Federalism

PM0912155293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 93 pp1, 4

[Hammud Munsir report from Sanaa and Lutfi Shatarah report from Aden: "Contrary to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's Acceptance, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Do Not Accept Federalism Nor Partition Plans for Yemen"]

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], believes that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's acceptance of the points submitted by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] for resolving the political crisis "is a matter that concerns President Salih himself and the General People's Congress" [GPC].

In his first comment regarding his party's position on the question of decentralization or federalism as a way out of the crisis, Shaykh al-Ahmar told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the present Yemeni state is a simple state. We have not been able to build it on foundations that would enable it to fulfill its tasks and duties. How could we possibly shift it to a different formula such as local government or federation?

He added: "We have united ourselves and our two states into one state. How could we possibly partition it again into 19 statelets? We have nothing like the United States of America. The local councils system is something that has been agreed upon unanimously." He was referring to the local government plan or the federal alternative proposed as a way out of the current crisis by the YSP which believes that local councils do not reflect decentralization.

Shaykh al-Ahmar did not rule out the possibility of the existence of secret dialogue between the GPC and the YSP but he said that, if it turns out that there was such a secret dialogue between its partners in government, the YRG would adopt a stand no different from the one it took after the elections on the constitutional amendments draft agreed upon by the GPC and the YSP before the elections. But he reaffirmed support for any proposal that would address the security issue, trial of accused persons, and unification of the Army.

Al-Ahmar emphasized that the House of Representatives would continue to do its duty regarding the crisis. He said that a number of recommendations were redrafted

in order to be included in the report of the parliamentary Follow-Up and Fact-Finding Committee concerned with the crisis. [passage omitted]

Largest Governorate To Seek 'Local Rule'

PM0812151393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 93 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Hadhramaut Governorate Demands Local Rule"]

[Text] Aden—A number of members of the preparatory committee for the national meeting of Hadhramaut Governorate in Yemen have called for a formula of local rule [hukm mahalli] enjoying extensive powers. Observers in Aden believe that, if this is approved by the meeting, it will lead to a shuffling of the political crisis cards and will represent a challenge to the existing centralized system, because of the importance of Hadhramaut Governorate, which has more than 60 percent of the overall oil reserves in Yemen. Well-informed sources have said that the national meeting of Hadhramaut Governorate will be held in al-Mukalla, the governorate's capital, the day after tomorrow. It will discuss the proposal drawn up by the preparatory committee regarding local rule.

Over 600 delegates representing eight directorates from the governorate will participate in the meeting. This is in addition to the governorate's notables and social figures.

Hadhramaut is the largest Yemeni governorate in terms of area. It has a population of 700,000 and is witnessing a big construction and trade boom. Thus any rejection by the authorities of this formula may lead to negative complications with regard to national unity in the country.

Brigadier Khalid Abu-Bakr Baras, chairman of the preparatory committee for the meeting, which will be held under the slogan "for the sake of reinforcing national unity and consolidating order, security, and stability," denied in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there is any political party from the ruling coalition parties behind this meeting, or that the meeting is backed by any ruling parties or others. Baras stressed that the people of the governorates, some investors, businessmen, and social figures have offered all resources to make this meeting a success.

Baras said that the meeting, the first of its kind in the governorate, will discuss a detailed report prepared by the preparatory committee on the conditions the governorate is experiencing and its sons' view of how to find a way out of the political crisis.

Baras said that participants in the meeting will draw up demands for developing the governorate and will take precautions to spare the governorate any negative events which could worsen as a result of the current crisis or any emergency situation, especially as the governorate has huge oil reserves and mineral, agricultural, and fishery resources. Thus the meeting must draw up a view of how to protect foreign interests in the governorate and national capital investments and how to bring about a stable atmosphere, proceeding from the characteristic by which Hadhramaut is known.

The Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau will hold today a two-day meeting to discuss developments in the current political crisis.

'Aziz Receives Former UK Prime Minister Heath

JN0812220593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, this evening received Edward Heath, former British prime minister and member of the British Parliament, who is currently visiting the country.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Lawyer Expects 3 Britons To Be Freed

NC0912150393 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Iraqi lawyer for three Britons held in Iraq said Thursday he was optimistic his clients would be set free soon.

The three were "waiting only to be pardoned by President Saddam Husayn in line with the Iraqi consitiution," their lawyer, Khalid Girgis, told AFP during a visit to Baghdad by former British prime minister Sir Edward Heath.

"I am optimistic about the chances for releasing the three Britons very soon," he said, referring to Paul Ride, Michael Wainwright and Simon Dunn.

Heath has met with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf since he arrived Wednesday on a mission to obtain the release of the three imprisoned for illegally entering Iraq.

Girgis said Heath's visit came in response to a letter sent by the prisoners to the British government, asking London to intervene in their case.

Ride, 33 and Wainwright, 42, were sentenced in 1992 to seven and 10 years respectively for illegally entering Iraq. Dunn, 23, was arrested last June for the same offense and jailed for eight years.

Britain has been pressing for the men's release but rejected meeting Iraq's demand for the release frozen assets in exchange.

Sir Edward went to Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait and successfully negotiated the release of British nationals being used as "human shields" at strategic locations.

He was criticised back home for dealing with Saddam.

Baghdad freed an American last month after a U.S. senator visited Baghdad to discuss his case. Three Swedish nationals were freed in the past five months after being held on similar charges.

A Frenchman and a German were also being held in Iraq.

A Western diplomat in Baghdad said Wednesday the Iraqis would not let Heath leave Iraq "empty-handed."

Health Minister Meets UK Delegation

JN0912162093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak today met with Dr. Geoffrey Astin and Nicholas Edgar [names as received], who are accompanying the former British prime minister on his current visit to Iraq.

The minister reviewed the suffering of the Iraqi people, particularly mothers and children, due to the continued unfair embargo imposed on Iraq. This embargo has claimed the lives of thousands of Iraqis due to the shortage of food and medicines.

The British delegation expressed its thanks and gratitude to the minister for explaining the Western media fabrications designed to tarnish Iraq's reputation in order to justify the continued unfair embargo against the militant Iraqi people.

Saddam Orders Release of Britons

JN0912144793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Today, President Saddam Husayn received here Edward Heath, former British prime minister and member of the British Parliament, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, Heath asked President Saddam Husayn to pardon three British prisoners who were imprisoned for illegally entering Iraq. The president ordered that they be pardoned and released.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, and Muhammad Sa'id al- Sahhaf, minister of foreign affairs.

Three Injured in Baghdad Car Bomb Explosion

JN0812212093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Three citizens were injured and six civilian cars were destroyed in a car bomb explosion that occurred at around 2000 [1700 GMT] today in the Radwan Market area, al-Karradah al-Sharqiyah, in Baghdad.

The Baghdad Police commander told INA that windows of restaurants and other shops were also smashed. He added that competent authorities have opened an investigation to apprehend those responsible for this heinous crime.

Ships 'Loaded With Food' To Dock at Ports

JN0812172593 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 8,INA—Trade Minister Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih has affirmed that the Iraqi ports will receive other commercial ships loaded with food stuffs.

In a press conference held on Tuesday in al-Basrah Province (southern Iraq) on board of the Greek ship, Dr Salih said that Iraq has now direct linkage with the world states through its ports.

Dr Salih added that cost of the food stuffs that arrive in Umm Qasr and other Iraqi ports was less than importing them through other ports.

BABIL Views Clinton's Domestic, Foreign Policies

JN0912122493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The newspaper BABIL affirms that U.S. President Clinton has failed in his management of domestic policy, just as he did in his management of foreign policy.

In an article entitled "The Vacillating Failure," the paper adds that Clinton's foreign policy with regard to crisis management has been the worst of all blunders, because it has agitated many flash points in the world, not to mention that it has failed to resolve interconnected differences with European states. Worse still, there has been U.S. duplicity with regard to the handling of the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis on the one hand, and the Somalia crisis on the other. The paper notes that the future of the U.S. presence in Somalia is yet to be decided [sentence as received].

The paper adds that this failure has called into question Clinton's competence and capability to manage the affairs of a state that claims to be the world's sole superpower in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The paper notes that this raises questions about the U.S. political institutions regarding the regulations and conditions that should govern the choice of leaders, whose job is to formulate their country's policies carefully.

Concluding its article, the paper wonders: Are U.S. leaders the product of the democracy professed by the United States? Or is it the institutions that work behind the scenes, and that are directed by parties seeking to promote their own hostile interests and purposes, which produce such leaders?

Arab Efforts To Thwart PLO-Israel Accord Urged

JN0812124893 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The threads of the conspiracy have become transparently clear, and the conspirators have become known to everybody. Those who do not own the land have abandoned it and bequeathed it to the most undeserving of all creatures. It has become clear to all those who have true patriotic and nationalistic sentiments, those who cherish their Arabism, nation, and religion, that those who have chosen to walk the path of relinquishment and capitulation have lost their legitimacy, which qualified them to lead the political and revolutionary march of our people in the past. This legitimacy was derived from the honorable confrontation of the enemy with bare chests that feared no enemies and that were willing to face martyrdom and make sacrifices to vindicate the land, the homeland, and honor. Their minds were strongly opposed to the relinquishment of a single inch of Arab territory, for which endless columns of martyrs have fallen. Arab land has been irrigated by floods of chaste blood offered by martyrs from Yafo, Haifa, Ramallah, Jerusalem, the Golan, the eastern flank of the Arab homeland, Amman, Algeria, and southern Lebanon.

Nonetheless, anti-Arab forces triumphed. As for Rabin, Peres, Shamir, and al-Sadat, and behind them the U.S. octopus, as well as those whose Arabism can only be seen in the language they speak, they are the winners, albeit, for the time being. They have managed to drag the 'Arafat leadership into the trap of the conspiracy to liquidate the Arab nation's major cause. However, this has not caused irreparable damage to the cause, which continues to be vindicated by the intifadah, which, in turn, thwarted the Zionist's delusions regarding the perpetuation of the occupation and disturbed their dreams of a peaceful coexistence between murderers and victims.

Some people might have been exhausted by the struggle, and chosen to live under the canopy of a peace that is protected by Zionist rifles and guns. It is only these people who are required to foot the exorbitant bill of the disastrous Gaza-Jericho accord. As for our heroic and struggling people, they will not be deterred, nor will their cohesive ranks be undermined by this conspiracy. They cannot allow this conspiracy to bring about an intra-Palestinian fighting. Those who wagered on such an eventuality will soon realize that they are the victims of delusions conceived in their sick dreams. For, the intifadah will not be halted. Moreover, Palestinian arms will not be directed at Palestinian chests. This is because the people who are making sacrifices in human lives to uphold their just cause and their legitimate rights cannot be undermined by conspiracies. Arab Palestine and the cause of Arab Palestine will continue to be vindicated on the streets of Gaza, Jericho, Jerusalem, Amman, Baghdad, Cairo, Sanaa, and all places in the Arab homeland.

As for those who demonstrated delight, they will die of grief once they see the deception and the exorbitant price of betrayal.

Palestinian rifles, Palestinian stones, and Arab blood are opposed to the outcome of this conspiracy, simply because it is not commensurate with the immense sacrifices made. Palestinian soil is the property of the Arab nation's sons, who have made sacrifices in blood to defend it, as well as future generations, which will restore it. As for the exhausted and lifeless people who are looking for a summer resort in Gaza and a winter resort in Jericho, they do not have the right to confiscate the future and revoke the Palestinian National Charter and its provisions, which relentlessly underscore the objective of liberating the Palestinian territories from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean, on the basis of a scientific view regarding the all-out liberation battle.

The scientific perspective regarding the battle for the liberation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, for that matter, maintains that the resources required for the liberation battle are those of the entire Arab nation, rather than those of a single Arab state, or even a group of Arab states. This is because the battle for the liberation of Palestine is not merely the battle of a state, or even a group of states. Indeed, it is a confrontation between the nation and all its enemies, namely, Zionism, colonialist powers, and reactionary forces.

The scientific perspective regarding the liberation battle sees an inextricable linkage between the battle for the liberation of Palestine and the battle for the Arab nation's unity. Consequently, any serious move to achieve the objective of liberation is bound to promote the cause of unity. Likewise, any genuine pan-Arab and popular unity-oriented move is an asset that would actually boost the liberation battle. As a matter of fact, this scientific perspective maintains that joint Arab struggle on Palestinian territory is the height of struggle to unify the nation. The battle for the liberation of Palestine is bound to make Arabs shed all manifestations of division and backwardness in the Arab homeland. Hence, the conspiracy targeting the Arab nation's major cause, the Palestine question. As for the disastrous Gaza-Jericho accord, it is meant to thwart the efforts to liberate Arab territories.

Concluding, we would like to address all enemies of the nation, saying that the peoples' willpower is invincible, and that the Arab nation will force its will. Only proper results are viable. The Arab homeland will not be a base for imperialists, nor will imperialist and Zionist invaders continue to desecrate Islamic holy shrines, occupy Arab lands, and plunder Arab resources. For the Arab nation's masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf, who have faith in the nation's unity and common destiny, believe that struggle to thwart the disastrous accord is a pan-Arab duty, just as is their duty to support the Iraqi people against imperialism, world Zionism, and fake Arabs.

Hence, we, the Arab nation's masses, must all come to the rescue of our people in occupied Palestine, Iraq, Somalia, Lebanon, and Libya. Our Arab masses must make moves to achieve an all-out unity, encompassing an effective political and economic integration. This is bound to terrify U.S. imperialism and world Zionism.

One thousand greetings to the stone-throwers, Iraqi children, and the Somali people.

Contacts Held on Satellite Ground Station Tests

JN0812182093 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 8, INA—Iraq has recently started contacts with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intersat) to set a date for conducting operation tests of al-Dujayl ground satellite station via the Indian satellite as a step towards resuming direct telephone services with East Asia countries, Japan and Australia.

A source at the Telecommunications and Post Department told Iraqi News Agency (INA) that operation tests of al-Dujayl stations are expected to start within the few coming days, adding that the tests will help the station obtains a rehabitation certificate to maintain direct telephone services via the satellite which is considered a new channel for maintaining communications between Iraq and world countries.

The source added that the staff of the Military Industry Commission in cooperation with the department have repaired the 32.5-metre diametre dish of al-Dujayl station by relying fully on locally-made parts and materials.

The station buildings were reconstructed and transmitters used to cover communication activities with socialist countries were modified to cover North America and West European countries via the Atlantic satellite, the source said.

The source noted that the satellite dish and the facilities that were used to cover communication with Europe, America, Japan and those for the socialist countries were damaged 64 the allies' bombings during the U.S-led war in 1991 [sentence as received].

The source went on to say that operation tests usually conducted via the three standards satellites in geostationary orbit over the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

According to the source such tests were used to be conducted by specialised international companies because they need accuracy and high technical skill, saying that the Iraqi team has proved efficiency and obtained a certificate from (Intersat) after operating al-Dujayl satellite station via the Intersat has allocated some 300 telephone channels for Iraq to maintain direct contacts with European countries, and Latin American via the Atlantic satellite [sentence as received].

Iraq has so far resumed direct telephone services with eight countries namely Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, France, America, Britain, Italy and most recently with Germany, said the source, noting that direct telephone services with the rest of the world will be resumed after the success of the operation test of al-Dujayl satellite station.

Iraq used to be linked internationally with telephone. Now it is difficult to telephone abroad after the U.S.-led allies have destroyed al-Dujayl satellite station and other stations.

However, authorities concerned were able to repair part of these stations and now it is possible to telephone some Arab and foreign countries.

Almost all the buildings, devices, main telecommunications equipment, aerials dishes, cables and microwave networks that connect Iraq with neighbouring countries have been damaged during the war, said the source.

Prior to the war, the country had a modern telcommunications network in both the urban and rural areas, serving millions of Iraqis through 900,000 telephone lines.

At least 400,000 of the original 900,000 lines and a large number of microwave stations and towers were damaged beyound repair, while the rest were partly damaged.

Rabin Addresses Newspaper Editors 8 Dec

TA0812145393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1216 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Annual address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin before the Daily Newspapers Editors Committee marking the 29 November Partition anniversary, made later this year since Rabin was abroad on that date—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Fourteen years later, or rather 13 and a half, again there were historic circumstances of changes on the international front—Soviet communism went bankrupt, the USSR crumbled, and the Cold War ended—which changed the world, and also the Middle East. Another event was the Gulf crisis, where the United States stood up against aggression. This allowed the United States to bring the parties to the Israeli-Arab conflict—Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and the Palestinians—to the Madrid conference. It was not Israel who did that, nor was it the Arab world. The United States did it. Naturally, the USSR and later Russia, were partners to the move, but it is clear which is the dominant international element that brought about the Madrid conference.

In the Madrid conference we faced four negotiating partners: three neighboring Arab states, excluding Egypt, and the Palestinians. According to the letter of invitation that the Israeli Government accepted, and I honor its commitment, the goal of the negotiations was to attain peace accords with the three countries, and solve our conflict with the Palestinians by progressing in two stages. In fact, the main points of the Egyptian, Israeli, and U.S. views on solving the Palestinian problem as stated in the Camp David accords were on the basis of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. We no longer use the term autonomy, not because Israel did not want to, but because the Palestinians and the other Arab partners said: Scrap the word autonomy. They came up with a new term: ISGA, Interim Self Government Arrangement for the Palestinians [last eight words in English] in the territories. Since then, the word autonomy never appeared in any document—neither Arab nor of two Israeli Governments, not just one.

The government that I have the honor to head was never very excited about the Madrid formula, at least I was not. This is because our experience tells us that we have never reached an agreement with an Arab element, certainly not an Arab country, in the framework of an international conference—and the Madrid conference was an international conference. You may call it a Middle East conference, but tell me, when did we have a conference for peace in the Middle East that was not an international conference? We created a reality in which four Arab parties, even if they came in three delegations, came at a given time, for a given time, to Washington, together, to hold negotiations with us.

Over the course of time we realized that there are two keys to solving the problem—the Syrian and the Palestinian—because Jordan could not do it alone before significant progress was made with the Palestinians, and Lebanon is under massive Syrian influence. The problem was where to make the breakthrough. Prior to the elections for the 13th Knesset, I gave priority to the Palestinian issue, but to me it was important to make a breakthrough, no matter the direction. The Palestinian issue has an advantage, but also some disadvantages. When we reach an agreement with an Arab country, Egypt for example, we give everything back to the last square inch. We uprooted all Israeli presence in the Sinai, but we set a border. It was clear that Egypt is on one side and Israel on the other. I have always known, and it came as no surprise to me, that when it comes to reaching an agreement with the Palestinians, the goal is to establish coexistence between two entities that do not love each other. They are geographically mixed, crossing each other daily in tens of thousands vehicles. How do you create such coexistence as an interim stage, an interim arrangement?

I knew it was a complex matter. I knew there would be opposition on the Palestinian side, on the Israeli side, and certainly from the people living in the territories. I must say, not all of them, they are not all the same. Many of them know and understand—despite the pain—the importance of attaining peace.

Also, with time, not at the beginning, it became clear to me that we must stop the masquerade. Indeed, we used to say that the delegation of Palestinian residents of the territories is the representation. But where did their mandate came from? It came from the Palestinian National Council, the PNC in English. The PNC made the decision, gave the mandate, and appointed the delegates. At a certain stage, at the beginning of 1993, I authorized an examination of whether the PLO would be willing to change the things that prevented it from being a negotiating partner with us. For example, the opposition of recognizing Israel's very right to exist, which is the basic foundation of the Palestinian Covenant; whether they are willing to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through peaceful means only; renounce and stop terror and violence by those they can control; and view the clauses of the Palestinian Covenant which reject Israel's right to exist in peace—in view of the agreement of principles—as inoperative and void. In order to amend the clauses of the covenant, there should be a PNC. One-third of the PNC members, Hawatimah, Habash, and the like, quit anyway. I would not be at all glad to see them fill the 180 empty seats with residents of the territories, and they made such a decision in order to amend the covenant. In any event, I doubt that 'Arafat can succeed in doing this at all.

We decided to try and exhaust the chance of progressing toward peace with the Palestinians. The agreement on the Declaration of Principles is not a peace pact. It is a major step toward peace—once it is implemented. After all, this is an agreement about the establishment of the interim arrangement for the transitional period, and I will not go into the details at this time.

In the negotiations on the implementation of the first stage of the Declaration of Principles—Gaza-Jericho First—we insisted primarily on the issue of security. At the same time, up to this day, we have never made an agreement with an Arab partner which said—even if it was an interim agreement—that Jerusalem is to remain whole and united under Israel's sovereignty. I am not saying that this is an agreement for the permanent solution. Nevertheless, then Prime Minister Begin, may he rest in peace, made an enormous achievement at Camp David. He had the courage to give everything back and uproot all Israeli presence in the Sinai. In doing so, he created a precedent we are yet to face in the future. Also, he accepted autonomy, a strong Palestinian police, and he certainly did not mean it will be strong by carrying sticks. We followed this guideline and said: Gaza-Jericho First. We insisted, in principle, that not a single Jewish settlement be uprooted in order to—once and for all—change the precedent in which an agreement calls for the uprooting of settlements. No settlement will be uprooted. And believe me, there are settlements in the territories that I believe were mistakes to set up in the first place. A Labor government, or even a national unity government in which Labor was partner, would never have set up many of the settlements. I am not referring to the confrontation lines, Jerusalem, or the 'Etzyon Bloc. But they are there. And we, a government without a right-wing party, said: We do not want to uproot a single settlement under an interim agreement.

Second, Israel will reserve the comprehensive responsibility for the security of the Israelis in the settlements and where they need to travel. Third, beyond a united Jerusalem and not uprooting settlements, we have full responsibility over the security of Israelis in the settlements and on the roads. [as heard] Fourth, we maintain the responsibility for external security. Fifth, we reserve all the options open—for both sides—for the negotiations on the permanent solution.

I believe this is the right way. There are risks. As for the chances: If indeed we implement the agreement on the Declaration of Principles according to our concept and to the letter of the agreement, I will regard this a breakthrough in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—which many view as the very heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict. I will not say whether it is true or not, but many around the world have been chanting this in our ears. This is why this move was accepted the way it was by the international community.

Now is a very sensitive time of expectation by the Israelis and the Palestinians—perhaps somewhat exaggerated—for immediate results of the signing of the Declaration of Principles even before we reach an agreement on the beginning of its implementation. The agreement also has opposition on both sides. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, the 10 Palestinian rejectionist organizations located in Syria and Lebanon have declared their opposition to the agreement. They have carried out anti-Israel terrorist operations over the years, because the doctrine of these organizations says that only through terror and violence can they achieve the desired result from Israel. That result is, in fact, close to the eradication of Israel, but so far they have failed to achieve that goal, they are not in the process of achieving it, and they will never achieve it. Yet ever since 13 September, the purpose of their terror—which existed in the past—has been to foment opposition on the Israeli as well as the Palestinian side, in a bid to foil the chance for peace, to foil that significant step toward the beginning of a solution between the Palestinians and us.

I know that the public, and naturally the settlers, are very sensitive with regard to the following issue. Regardless of whether this government consented to the establishment of settlements in certain areas, we inherited them, and we are committed to guaranteeing their security.

Yesterday I had a meeting with an NRP [National Religious Party] group, and I realized that many things are unknown. Permit me to inform you of several facts. For some time now, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has deployed a vast amount of manpower to guarding the Jewish inhabitants and their settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza: 120—sometimes more—companies serve in the territories guaranteeing the safety of the Israeli inhabitants and settlements in the territories.

You may wish to know that troops deployed along the Lebanese border are one-fourth of the personnel deployed in Judaea and Samaria. A quarter! Well, perhaps slightly more. This does not include the efforts invested by the Shin Bet and the various extra troops. At present, the IDF deployment in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is almost four times larger than on the Lebanese border and in the security zone! And that is supposed to be a lack of effort? And believe me, the 1993 work plan was based on fewer troops. I demanded an 80-million-shekel budget addition, and that was only for the Border Police and regular army companies—just the combat layout, including reserve soldiers from the combat layout. This is an enormous deployment. And yet today I visited.... [pauses] We have to escort 500 separate groups of schoolchildren daily in Judaea and Samaria alone, not including Gaza. That is because we want to watch over the children. We reinforced our presence both with troops and vehicles.

Permit me to impart some painful statistics, of which I intend to hide nothing. Throughout 1992, 39 Israelis were killed, including 22 civilians and 17 members of the security forces. In 1992, 16 Israelis were killed inside the Green Line. In 1993, prior to the signing of the agreement on 13 September, 41 Israelis were killed, including 23 civilians—one civilian more than in all of 1992—and 18 members of the security forces. From 13 September until today, 14 Israelis were killed, including 10 civilians and 4 members of the security forces.

At the end of March, three months into the new year, I acted contrary to the advice of many people by imposing a closure banning the entry of Palestinians into sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem. During the first three

months of 1993, nine Israelis were killed inside the Green Line—five civilians and four members of the security forces. Seven Israelis—four civilians and three members of the security forces—were killed during the eight-and-a-half month closure, versus nine in the three months which preceded the closure.

Terror has always existed, but closure curbed it significantly. We are talking about the safety of the citizens of the State of Israel, the 4.1-4.2 million Israeli Jewish citizens, to say nothing about the non-Jewish Israeli citizens. True, there has been a trend since 13 September promoted mainly by terrorist organizations—Hamas, the Islamic Jihad—to harm.... [pauses] I can tell you, we have recently realized that while previously Hamas made efforts to attack uniformed personnel, it has changed its goal in the past weeks and is now trying to harm Israeli civilians. The reason is simple: Hamas has realized that by attacking Israeli civilians, particularly in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, it is creating agitatation among the Israeli public and turning it against the agreement. If it believes that it is achieving its goal, it will be spurred to attack Israeli civilians, rather than the security forces.

We are tackling the situation with the help of the enormous outlay of troops the IDF is investing at the expense of exercises and professional training, because for the government and for the IDF, security in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is at present the utmost defense priority, because that is where most of the terrorist attacks are perpetrated and because it is important in these vulnerable times.

What have we not done? Yesterday I met with a Knesset faction and I was asked: What is going on? Has the special Gaza undercover unit ceased to exist? I said I have not heard anything about it. I phoned the chief of staff and asked him whether the unit had been given leave. It happens that nothing like that transpired. People spread lies regarding the size of the IDF deployment, regarding special unit operations, regarding the antiterror effort. We pursue these activities because, first of all, it is the duty of the state, the IDF, and the security forces. And as for me, I would naturally like to create the most propitious conditions for the negotiations and for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The last thing I want is terrorism, both per se and as a political factor.

They say that there is not enough activity, that the government has imposed limitations on the IDF. You can ask IDF commanders, and they will tell you: Law is the only limitation, and I am not responsible for the law; the law is instituted by legislators and interpreted by courts. I regret to say that a part of the public accused me on numerous occasions of trying to overstep the legal provisions governing counterterrorist activities. The commotion that ensued following the High Court ruling on the deportation of 400 odd Hamas members! All kinds of legal experts and some who were not legal experts attacked the move. Has anyone in any previous government tried such a move in the past 20 years? At least for a year?

I have read that the IDF and the State of Israel is about to hand over 15,000 guns. Nonsense! We have no intention to give anything to the Palestinian police, if and when it is established. They will have to purchase equipment in any way they see fit in compliance with the agreement on the size and armament of that police. I am sorry, I do not have a patent on the idea of a strong Palestinian police, but I think the decision was right, because if we intend to demand that the Palestinians assume responsibility for spheres for which Israel is not responsible—Israel is responsible for the security of the Israeli inhabitants—there has to be a gun-carrying police in the city of Gaza with its 250,000 inhabitants but not a single Israeli. We want there to be public law and order there, we want terrorist acts to be prevented there. Can we expect Palestinian policemen to patrol these places armed with sticks?

We believe that the Declaration of Principles agreement and the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First represent a fitting distribution of responsibility. The Palestinians will run Gaza and the Palestinian life; they will run Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, Rafah, the refugee camps. I never knew that the Zionist doctrine includes the ambition to rule over another nation. For me Zionism is not merely a territorial expansion, it is first and foremost the building of a nation, of a Jewish state, the upholding of Jewish values, the absorption of immigrants, and the safeguarding of security—all this stemming from the desire to attain peace.

It is the policy of this government to do everything possible to combat terrorism, and nowadays the Palestinian terrorism pursued by Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, Jibril, George Habash, Hawatimah, Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] has only one purpose: to harm Israelis in a bid to secure their help in thwarting the chance for peace.

We are responsible for the security of all inhabitants, all settlements, and we will do our very best to achieve that. Yet here is an example: The Israelis who were so cruelly murdered—Rabbi Druckman's driver, the two killed near Bet El, the kindergarten teacher, the father and son two days ago—were all shot from a moving vehicle on a major road. There are tens of thousands of Israeli vehicles driving on these roads. The target vehicle may be stationary and it may be moving. In any event, another vehicle—sometimes bearing a yellow Israeli license plate and very rarely a blue West Bank license plate—drives by, its passengers open fire, mostly hitting their target, in a few cases missing it. How does one cope with this? There are the security forces—the Shin Bet, the Army, patrols—but one of the best methods are unexpected roadblocks. Yet if that is done, hundreds of Israeli vehicles will also have to be delayed, because there is mixed traffic there. Nowadays, the 1,000 km of Judaea and Samaria roads and the 350 km of major

roads are used equally by Israelis and Palestinians. How can they be sorted? To check hundreds of vehicles, traffic has to be stopped. And who is most annoyed by this? The Israelis, and I can understand them. But we will be unable to hermetically seal off the territories to the terrorist elements without taking measures annoying those living and driving in the territories.

Furthermore, the extremist terrorist elements—Hamas and the Islamic Jihad—have for the first time in the history of Palestinian terrorism carried out five suicide attacks, including car bombs and a belt of explosives whose wearer knew in advance he would have to die if he was to carry out his mission. There have been four car bombs—and I am not referring to the ones in Ramat Ef'al and Jerusalem, which had delay mechanisms. I am referring to the ones near Mehola and Bet El and in Gaza where a Palestinian car drove into a police car, blowing himself up. Fortunately for us, he was killed while none of the policemen was injured. We have been familiar with this course of action only in Lebanon, where it is pursued by Hizballah. It has never characterized Palestinian terrorism. And the more the radical and fanatical a religious mentality pervades the Palestinian public—the Hamas and Islamic Jihad public—the more we are liable to see this course of action.

What would have happened had there been no political move? Would terrorism have ceased? I have given you the statistics of what happened up to 12 September: 41 fatalities by that date and 15 since. Those who thought that terrorism would disappear if we failed to achieve an agreement did not understand, did not read, did not know. I remember the warnings, the dark prophecies. I remember that when we signed the disengagement agreement with Syria, the opposition's Knesset representatives made all sorts of predictions: It will collapse within six months, they said. Yet May marks the 20th anniversary of the disengagement agreement with Syria, and there has not been a single terrorist event in the Golan Heights since 1975. From the point of view of personal safety, this is the safest region in the entire territory of the State of Israel.

I remember that in January 1985, when I was defense minister in the national unity government, I said we should move out the 5,000 IDF soldiers wading in the Lebanese quagmire. The things they said then! I remember that after Operation Accountability, when I reached understandings through the United States, they said the understandings were worth nothing. From its inception, the security zone was supposed to guarantee the Galilee inhabitants' security, because the Lebanon War had solved absolutely nothing in terms of Lebanon-based terror. Yet not a single katyusha has been fired into Israeli territory since the agreement.

Let me tell you a story. I believe this happened about a month ago. I received a report that a katyusha fell on Qiryat Shemona. I believe that agreements and arrangements have to be honored. I also learned that President al-Asad is on a visit in Cairo, sitting with President Husni Mubarak. Through the Egyptian ambassador I relayed a message to Mubarak, telling him: In your conversation, you must tell him that the agreement has been violated. I received a reply through the ambassador. Al-Asad told me: It is impossible; it cannot be Hizballah. At the same time I sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. This whole affair lasted some two hours. Christopher called Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' and warned him. Two hours later I received the correct report: An IDF blunder. An IDF post mistakenly fired a 120mm mortar shell in the direction of Qiryat Shemona. And, having made such fuss about it, I began apologizing to Syria through the Egyptian president, and the Americans. Then I am told Christopher again called al-Shar' to apologize. And Al-Shar' told him: Mr. Secretary, just remember this the next time Israel makes a complaint.

I believe that we must reach agreements, but the basic thing is to insist that they are implemented. I know this is a sensitive time, I know that terror was initiated by Palestinian terrorists. The reactions by a small number of settlers—and I will not judge it at this time; and I am not talking about political demonstrations, I speak of riots—followed this terror. This terror has always been there. Today, it aims at exciting them and others in Israel. It aims at getting them active against the agreement—and I making a very clear distinction here between the acts and motivations of the two. Anyone who fails to understand this, does not understand the goal of the terrorists of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and the rejectionist front who oppose peace. And I am telling you: The more opposition to the agreement they see on our side following their terror acts, the more motivated they will be to carry out terror acts. We will fight terror with all our might. We will use every legal means to fight it. At the same time, we know that if there is a chance to find a solution to the problem, it lies with the negotiations on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. Nothing will deter this government and me from continuing on the road toward the implementation of the agreement so that it provides security. What I must attain are the criteria and goals, as I defined them here, that will provide security for all the residents and all the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and certainly in the State of Israel.

This is how I regard myself carrying out the goals set on 29 November: A Jewish state; a sovereign, strong state that fulfills its Zionist and world-wide Jewish destination. We are not concerned with territorial expansionism. We wish to fulfill the task of the ingathering of the exiles to Zion. What happens within the boundaries of the state is far more important than where these boundaries are—as long as they cover most of the territory of Eretz Yisra'el with united Jerusalem as its capital. Thank you.

Rabin Directs Team To Facilitate Cairo Talks

TA0812140393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Dec 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday directed the Israeli delegation for talks with the PLO to facilitate the negotiations in order to solve as many controversial problems as possible prior to Rabin's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat next week.

This morning senior Israeli and PLO negotiators will meet in Cairo for the last meeting before 13 December, the target date for completing the agreement for withdrawal of Gaza and Jericho. The Israeli delegation will submit to the Palestinians the draft agreement finalized yesterday, which is more than 100 pages long.

The draft is based on the clauses of the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles and details Israel's position regarding all the elements of withdrawal, the self-government, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, protecting the travel axes and the settlements, economic relations, the structure of the Palestinian police and its relations with Israel. The draft was prepared by a team headed by Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser.

Yesterday morning Rabin held a meeting with members of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks, headed by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq. The meeting was also attended by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq. During the talks in Cairo, which will continue for two days, the Palestinians are expected to submit their own draft agreement, which will be shorter than the Israeli version.

Israeli sources yesterday said that Rabin has still not decided to delay the target date for completing the talks, adding that there is no understanding between him and 'Arafat on postponing the date beyond 13 December. In yesterday's meeting as well, no mention was made of a possible delay in the completion of the talks.

During the talks held by Israeli and PLO leaders with Secretary Christopher, 'Arafat emphasized the importance of adhering to the timetable. Rabin told the secretary of state it is important to reach a detailed and clear agreement. Even if there is a delay in signing, the clarity of the agreement will make it easier to quickly implement on the ground.

In internal debates Rabin has explained that he would not make any concessions to the PLO regarding the issue of control over the Gaza Strip border crossings and the Jordan River bridges. Political sources said control over the crossings is vital for Israel's security and coincides with the agreement of principles, which gives Israel responsibility for external security in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho.

On the three other controversial issues—the size of the Jericho area, protection of the Jewish settlements, and Israeli travel on the roads—Israel is willing to negotiate. Israeli sources, however, emphasized that the gap between the sides is profound and seems difficult to bridge. For this reason they assess it will be hard to complete the agreement for signing on 13 December. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Comments on Meeting With Christopher

TA0812185293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has returned to Israel and met with President Weizman and the leader of the Likud, Binyamin Netanyahu. Christopher reviewed for the two the latest developments in his shuttle diplomacy. Tomorrow, Christopher returns to Syria.

After the meeting with Christopher, reporter Mark Weiss asked Netanyahu if he shared the secretary of state's optimism that real peace is achievable.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] Well, I said to him that there is great doubt in the Israeli public, and I expressed that doubt, to put it mildly, because of the tremendous increase in terrorism and the complete failure of the PLO to live up to any of its commitments under the agreement. I think that this is something that is shared not only by my colleagues and me, but by a growing segment of the people in Israel. I said that we want to see real peace, not the kind of peace that has Israelis being murdered every day. That is the very opposite of peace. We want a genuine peace, not a fake peace.

[Weiss] If you reject, as you have, the idea of a national unity government, what do you think the correct response should be to the continuing violence, the continuing murder of the Jewish residents of the territories?

[Netanyahu] An immediate change of policy. We have to restore security. We have to stop the release of the jailed terrorists. We have to stop the return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees who are going to return in just 10 days. We have to stop the arming of the PLO army with weapons that could then be used against us. And we have to ensure that the Army gets very clear orders to act against the perpetrators of violence. This is a complete, I would say, a sea change in the current policy of the government. That is what is required. And if Mr. Rabin makes such a change, I assure you we will support him as we did in Operation Accountability. [end recording]

Israel Preparing To Free 'Some 1,200 Prisoners'

TA0812141193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The defense establishment is currently finalizing a list of some 1,200 prisoners and security detainees who will be apparently released from detention facilities in

Israel and the territories early next week, as a confidence building measure vis-a-vis the Palestinians. This was divulged by senior military sources yesterday.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is also preparing for a partial evacuation of military outposts in the Gaza Strip, apparently to be implemented on 13 December, the date by which Israel and the Palestinians are supposed to sign the agreement on implementing autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks, headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq and Major General 'Uzi Dayan, is leaving for Cairo today for a meeting with a scaled-down Palestinian delegation. During this meeting Israel will submit the document for an autonomy plan in Gaza and Jericho and will ask the Palestinians to sign it.

Officers in the General Staff yesterday started preparing the list of Palestinian prisoners and detainees to be released from installations in Israel and the territories early next week. This will constitute another step in the release of prisoners and detainees in the framework of Israeli confidence-building measures. The final decision regarding the release will be made by Prime Minister Rabin after he is briefed on the outcome of the working group discussions taking place in Cairo today and tomorrow. Senior military sources reiterated that no prisoners and detainees whose hands are stained with blood will be released in this wave of release. Most of the prisoners to be released are Fatah members.

Amnon Shahaq and 'Uzi Dayan yesterday briefed Rabin about the results of the working group discussions in Cairo and al-'Arish. Rabin also perused the Israeli position paper regarding the implementation of the agreement of principles. This document details Israel's updated position regarding self-government in Gaza and Jericho, the security of the settlements and Israelis, the Palestinians' authorities, and contacts between Israelis and Palestinians.

Rabin directed the team to introduce minor changes into the document, which was prepared by the Foreign Ministry personnel and the IDF's Planning Branch. Today the head of the Israeli delegation will submit this document to Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, and will suggest that it be accepted by both sides. If the Palestinians accept the document, it will be prepared for signature by the legal advisers of both sides. A senior security source close to the Israeli delegation said yesterday that "if the Palestinians accept the new document it will be possible to sign the agreement already on 13 December, the date stipulated in the agreement of principles. There are only slight chances, however, that the Palestinians will accept it, and apparently it will be necessary to delay the signing date by two weeks or more."

The IDF is preparing to evacuate several military outposts in the Gaza Strip, including the military outpost in the Jabalyah refugee camp. It intends to evacuate this outpost on 13 December as an Israeli gesture on the signing date. The Jabalyah outpost is one of the most prominent symbols of military rule in the territories, and its evacuation will constitute an important symbolic move vis-a-vis the Gaza Strip population.

Document Details Palestinian Police Restrictions

TA0812133793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Dec 93 p 2

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Palestinian policemen in the territories will not be allowed to detain, hold, or interrogate Israelis, with no exceptions.

This is the conclusion of a document dealing with law enforcement in the territories submitted to Prime Minister Rabin in the framework of the talks with the PLO. Israel and the PLO have already agreed that the Palestinians establish an armed police force in the territories. The argument between the sides concerns the authorities to be vested in this force.

The document was formulated by legal advisers from the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Police Ministry, and the military Judge Advocate's Office.

The document also stipulates that Palestinian policemen will not be allowed to ask an Israeli to identify himself. They will only be allowed to register I.D. details for reporting to the Israeli legal authorities. The document also proposes that the PLO and Israel both undertake firmly dealing with criminals from the other side [sentence as published].

Arab Shot Dead; Assailants Said To Be Settlers

TA0912092093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Hamis Abu-Awad, a 52-year-old farmer from the village of Turmus 'Ayya, north of Ramallah, was shot dead this morning while plowing his field. According to local villagers who found him critically wounded before he passed away, the farmer said he had been shot by settlers. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and Judaea District policemen are looking into the incident, and teams have gone to the scene to collect testimonies.

'Terrorists' Stab, Injure Israeli in Gaza

TA0912102393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] This morning in Moshav Qatif in the southern Gaza Strip, two Arab terrorists stabbed a woman and slightly wounded her. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Nisim Qeynan report that the terrorists fled the scene, and a manhunt is currently under way. It should be noted that Moshav Qatif does not employ Arab workers, and it is not yet clear how the two infiltrated the moshav. The victim is an immigrant from India who is

attending a nearby college to convert to Judaism. The attack took place while Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur was touring the college.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has issued a leaflet stating that it has murdered 11 Israeli soldiers since the signing of the agreement with the PLO and that it will continue to operate against Israel because this is a holy war.

A general strike is being observed today in the territories to mark the sixth anniversary of the intifadah.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 9 December reports that "Kakh's Committee for Security on the Roads has assumed responsibility" for the killing earlier today of a farmer in Turmus 'Ayya].

Antigovernment Protesters Injured, Arrested

TA0912055493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Excerpts] In a stormy protest in Jerusalem last night against government policy over peace with the Palestinians, five people were hurt and 24 were arrested. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that a large group of protesters went wild in the center of the city and threw a variety of objects at policemen. Police used batons and water cannons to disperse the demonstrators. [passage omitted]

We have just heard that during the night, the tires of 18 Arab-owned cars were punctured inside the Old City.

PFLP Claims Responsibility for 8 Dec Attack

TA0812185493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] The terror group of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has claimed responsibility for this morning's attack at Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem. Ya'ir Kohen of the settlement of Qeydar was seriously wounded. He was shot in the abdomen. Hospitalized at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, after going through several hours of surgery, his condition is now described by doctors as serious but stable.

Hamas, Rejectionists' Strategies Reviewed

TA0812203193 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report including report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] Ibrahim Zakut, a Gaza Strip Red Eagle activist, was today captured and released by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] despite his organization's affiliation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, rather than Fatah. Zakut was captured and brought to the Civil Administration, but was set free following intervention by Fatah personnel.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] today held a mass rally in the Gaza Strip to mark the sixth anniversary of the intifadah. The rallying Gazans called to continue terrorist activities and an all-out war on Israel, while opposing the peace process.

A pro-Hamas procession was held in Gaza streets, with marchers swinging axes and knives. Elsewhere, a quasi-military march was held.

More Hamas members were today detained in the territories, mostly in the Ramallah area. Relatives of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Aruri, a Hamas activist killed by the IDF in Ramallah this week, contended that he had been killed without the slightest provocation on his part. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari is in the studio to report on the latest developments in Hamas:

[Ya'ari] The series of terrorist attacks is a component of a joint action plan devised by the Hamas-rejectionist front alliance forged in Damascus meetings in recent weeks. Although the alliance has encountered difficulties, and no agreement on the establishment of a joint organization that would rival the PLO was achieved, clear-cut objectives have emerged for field activities.

First of all, Hamas and the partners movement [rejectionist front organizations] are determined to carefully avoid any direct confrontation with Fatah, now as well as later, after 'Arafat's security personnel take over Gaza. They announced in advance that they will not attack 'Arafat's policemen and administration officials, but will continue launching attacks against Israelis. This is designed to put 'Arafat in a quandary: If he smites the terrormongers, he will be held responsible for major bloodshed in the Palestinian camp and presented as another SLA [South Lebanese Army]. If he does not, he will come under heavy Israeli pressure.

Second, they intend to establish facts by openly setting up a political organization in the territories which 'Arafat will be hardly able to terminate without appearing to renege on his pledge to maintain a democratic regime. For that reason, the rejectionist organizations have begun openly inaugurating branches in various locations such as Bethlehem, are planning a newspaper, and are speaking of establishing a shadow administration that will rival with that of 'Arafat.

Their third goal is taking over the existing institutions. The election results of Bi'r Zayt University, where Fatah was defeated, have been repeated in a series of other elections. The partnership between Hamas and the rejectionist fronts has managed to round up more than half of the votes. This happened in the elections of the Samaria Medical Association, the Teachers College in Ramallah this week, and so forth.

Along with stepped-up terrorist activities, Hamas members pursue an internal controversy over the participation in the general elections and the new administration's institutions. Opposing views are voiced by the

members, who are apparently waiting for the return from Lebanon of the deportees in mid-December.

It should be noted that the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood has a great, sometimes crucial, influence on Hamas strategies, and some of the new Amman Parliament members are directly involved through the recruitment of armed squads as well as political directives.

'Arafat's aides say he has a chance to arrive at a tacit understanding with Hamas, but no evidence sustaining this declaration has been forthcoming.

Cairo Paper Reports 'Second' Nuclear Test

NC0712150393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Israel carried out a new nuclear test in the Mediterranean early this month. According to our information, the new nuclear test focused on experiments with new types of short-range nuclear missiles and other technological weapons and equipment.

An Israeli technical committee chose the site of the new nuclear test, preparations for which lasted approximately four months. The same information indicates that the test aimed to check the efficiency of three secret Israeli bases that control the launch of nuclear missiles and weapons. Israel spent over $30 million on the test and part of the money was used to buy advanced technological equipment.

Some Arab governments reportedly received important political reports on the details of the test. The reports urged these governments to intervene directly with the United States and European states to keep the Mediterranean safe from nuclear tests.

This is Israel's second nuclear test this year.

Aide: President Made No Call for Unity Government

TA0812121593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Arye Shumer, the president's residence director general, has said that in his address on the television's Mabat last night, President 'Ezer Weizman did not mean that a national unity government should be established. Shumer said that the president meant that there is a need for the various political elements to unite and expand cooperation, but not necessarily to begin moves for the establishment of national unity government.

Speaking with our correspondent, Arye Shumer said that the president decided to make this move in order to express the people's sentiment. And indeed, since last night, the president's residence has been flooded with phone calls and letters from the citizens who congratulate the president and express support for his moves.

Attorney General Retracts Settlers Council Remarks

TA0812175393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir today went back on his stipulation that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is a seditious body. After a meeting with the council heads, a statement was issued saying that, after it was made clear to the attorney general about the nature of the council's activity and its commitment to observe the laws of the state, he was satisfied that it is not to be seen as a seditious body.

It was further determined that the operations of the Hashomer organization, which the settlers plan to set up, will be subject to the person in charge of security in each settlement, under a decree by the military governor.

Bulgaria's Zhelev Comments on Visit, Departs

AU0812181093 Sofia BTA in English 2130 GMT 7 Dec 93

["Updated" report by Evgeniya Manolova: "President Zhelyu Zhelev Ends Official Visit to Israel]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, December 7 (BTA)—President Zhelev completed the formal part of his three-day visit to Israel this morning. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a news conference before leaving Israel, Dr. Zhelev described his visit as useful and said it produced a number of tangible results. The president recalled that apart from the agreements on the reciprocal protection and encouragement of investments and on relaxed visa regulations, the sides had signed a memorandum to expedite the signing of another five major agreements concerning tourism and agriculture.

President Zhelev said that during his talks with Israeli leaders, he had stressed Bulgaria's support for the Middle East peace process and for Israel's efforts to bring it to a successful conclusion. The same stand, he added, was expressed at today's meeting which two members of the Bulgarian official delegation had with Palestinian representatives. Bulgaria's support for the efforts of those who work for the success of the peace talks overcoming the extremist sentiments in the circles they come from was clearly stated at the meeting, the Bulgarian president said.

House of Representatives Ends Confidence Vote

Deputies Criticize Government Practices

JN0812131093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament is today expected to end its discussion of a vote of confidence in the Cabinet of Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali with 15 deputies scheduled to take the floor before the government presents its response and a vote is taken.

Deputies and observers say the Cabinet will leave the session with a humble victory as no more than 47 deputies are expected to give it a vote of confidence. Twenty-five to 28 deputies are expected to withhold confidence; the rest of the 80 parliamentarians are expected to abstain.

Nineteen deputies delivered speeches Tuesday [7 December], the third day of the marathon session during which many of the 60 deputies who spoke severely criticised the government for its "undemocratic" record while others praised it as an able cabinet worthy of the House's confidence.

"The government got a taste of what it means to work when the House is sitting," said one deputy at the end of the session, which saw the government subjected to the hardest criticism over its dissolution of the 11th Parliament, changing the Election Law, alleged interference in the Nov. 8 elections and undemocratic and unconstitutional practices.

Leftists, Islamists and centrist deputies also castigated the government for allegedly exercising favouritims in filling senior public positions, showing disrespect for the House and "dictatorial" style of governing.

The government came under fire for "breaking the norm and traditions" by not resigning after the elections, failing to consult deputies over last week's ministerial changes and allegedly using its power to favour representatives of one party, al-'Ahd, in appointing governors, general directors and other senior officials.

Deputies also claimed that only al-'Ahd, is represented in the Cabinet in which no other shades of the political spectrum have no presence.

"We demand that this government resign because it will not be able to face the challenges," said Deputy Samir al-Habashinah (al-Karak).

Referring to the Cabinet's dissolution of the 11th Parliament, Mr. al-Habashinah, a leftist, asserted the government's practices demonstrated the easiness with which it could reverse the democratic process.

"This government believes in electric therapy which stuns but does not kill and leaves the shocked person living in fear," said Deputy 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah (Irbid) in a speech, full of criticism of the Cabinet.

Mr. al-Rawabidah, president of the eight-member Jordan National Front (JNF) bloc, echoed other deputies in saying the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the Election Law strengthened tribalism and sectarianism in the country and delivered a severe blow to national unity.

National unity has also been weakened by favouritism, nepotism and discrimination among citizens, many deputies said, demanding that citizens be treated equally.

In addition to demands that such practices end, Mr. al-Rawabidah insisted that the government explain why, as he claimed, it is restricting the use of a $12 million trade protocol with Iraq to two individuals and planning to sell its shares in a national company to another individual.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies attacked the government for participating in the peace process with Israel and demanded that the country withdraw from it.

They criticised the information policy, which, they said, is promoting peace with Israel and warned against changing school curricula to suit the requirements of the era of normalisation of relations with Israel.

The front deputies accused the government of irregularities during the Nov. 8 elections, saying the Cabinet worked to discredit IAF candidates and reduce their chances of winning the polls.

They said the government did not respond to His Majesty King Husayn's orders that the elections be fair and honest.

"The elections were anything but honest," said IAF al-Tafilah Deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah.

Dr. al-'Akayilah said the government used its employees and power to promote certain candidates and intimidate voters not to vote to others while Irbid IAF Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur indicated the government distributed leaflets that attacked the front's candidates.

"I have evidence that the government distributed these leaflets," al-Mafraq Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi said in a speech that included the strongest attack on the government's policy, record and members.

Claiming that former Deputy Layth Shubaylat was implicated in a "fabricataed" sedition plot because of his strong opposition to the government last year, Mr. al-Dughmi said fear would not stop him from opposing the government because "this is a national duty."

"This government (represents) a coup d'etat on democracy," said Mr. al-Dughmi, who claimed the government's practices were undemocratic, unconstitutional and lacking in respect for the people and their representatives.

Ma'an Deputy 'Awad Khulayfat said the government fell short of the people's expectations because it is neither a political nor a technocratic government.

The government also came under attack for raising the salaries of ministers at a time when, said Mr. al-Dughmi, Mr. al-Akayilah and other deputies, the raises should have gone to civil servants whose standards of living continue to fall.

Al-Balqa' Deputy Hashim al-Dabbas was among deputies who indicated support for the government and defended its record in handling the elections and praised its ability to govern.

"The elections were honest and fair," said Mr. al-Dabbas.

Mr. al-Dabbas and other deputies endorsed Jordan participation in the peace process, provided it produces a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Deputies demanded that Jordan seek better relations with other Arab counties, with many calling for an end to the sanctions against Iraq and continued support for the Palestinian people.

The problems of poverty and unemployment were raised by many deputies who warned that poverty is spreading and demanded the government find immediate solutions to these problems. They demanded that subsidies be not lifted from basic goods and no new taxes introduced.

More on Deputies' Comment

JN0912134693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House Wednesday [8 December] ended a four-day marathon vote of confidence session during which 76 deputies took the floor and alternately praised and harshly criticised the government on issues ranging from the Nov. 8 elections, the recent government reshuffle, the peace process, economic reform, poverty and unemployment, as well as demands related to specific districts.

Fifteen deputies took the podium Wednesday, with tension rising and the galleries filling by the hour in expectation of the vote of confidence, which took place after Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali delivered the government's response to the deputies' speeches at little before 9:00 p.m.

The government came under fire for introducing the one-person, one-vote formula to the Election Law, dissolving the 11th Parliament, alleged interference in the elections and favouritism in appointing ministers and senior officials.

Some deputies praised the government's integrity and expressed confidence in its ability to handle future challenges.

Miflih al-Ruhaymi (Jarash), who was the first to speak Wednesday, refuted allegations by some deputies that the government includes among its ranks members of al-'Ahd Party, the founder of which is al-Karak Deputy 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, the premier's brother.

"Me and my colleagues in al-'Ahd had hoped that the Cabinet would include a minister representing us, but the party was excluded," Mr. al-Ruhaymi said.

Ibrahim Zayd al-Kaylani (Amman Third District), a prominent member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), joined by other front members and independents like Salih Irshaydat (Irbid), a former minister of youth, criticised the premier for not consulting the deputies before announcing his government reshuffle.

Dr. al-Kaylani and al-Karak Deputy Nazih al-'Ammarin claimed that Dr. al-Majali did not appoint the right person at the right post and that personal affiliations predominate the shape of the new Cabinet.

Mansur Bin-Tarif (al-Karak) focused his speech on the economy in general and the agricultural sector in particular, requesting a unified source for agricultural loans.

Fifteen deputies presented a petition to the prime minister requesting that the interest on agricultural loans be written off, the debts rescheduled for a period not less than 10 years, the farmers be given a three-year grace period, loans less than JD [Jordanian dinars] 10,000 be forgiven and that all the above be included in the 1994 budget.

Some of the deputies who signed the petition conditioned their signature to the application of the above to the small farmers.

Sulayman al-Sa'd (Jarash) attacked what he described as the government's non-Islamic policies in education, media and culture, calling for more adherence to the codes of Sharia in school curricula.

Islamic Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, a fiery orator and a popular figure since the 1989 elections, set the audience roaring in laughter several times with cynical remarks.

Muhammad 'Uwaydah, (IAF, al-Balqa') first refused to speak until the television cameras covering the event be removed. But his request was denied by Speaker Tahir al-Masri and he went ahead.

Al-Majali Defends Government

JN0812202893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1646 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Address by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in reply during the vote of confidence debate in the House of Representatives—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessings be upon the most honorable prophet, Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon.

Honorable speaker of the House of Representatives, their excellencies members of the House of Representatives. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [passage omitted]

Before I respond to the remarks of the brother honorable deputies, I would like to affirm to you a clear, unambiguous fact. This fact is that I deeply respect and highly appreciate this esteemed House and each of its honorable members. As His Majesty King Husayn has said, you are the very best and the distinguished elite of our honorable people, whom you best represent. Please allow me to speak to you with the same spirit of brotherly openness as you did, and to open my heart to you.

Just like you, I have been offended by what has been written and published on this esteemed House and the government's view of it. This esteemed House, as I have already noted, includes the very best. In no way can it be a tamed assembly that approves anything and everything that is presented to it, as some have tried to describe it. By God, you cannot be like that, nor can the government think of you like that. This false allegation is not a fabrication against only the government, but also an allegation that harms the dignity of the esteemed House and the people who elected it. This is something that the government does not accept in any way. This is an attempt to harm the government and its relationship with the esteemed House. It has targeted the government and House alike. We have common dignity, irrespective of our different views and interpretations. The government respects and appreciates the opinion of every one of you. It believes in the right of every one of you to oppose the government, irrespective of how far he may disagree with it or how harshly he may criticize it. It also believes in every deputy's right to adopt the stand which is dictated by his conscience and which he believes to be in the service of the higher national interest.

God willing, through our cooperation, consultation, and joint decisionmaking, the government will prove to each one of you to what extent the government respects and appreciates this esteemed assembly. The government is answerable to you, and it needs your confidence and support in our joint effort to serve this dear homeland and its noble people under its inspired Hashemite leadership.

Mr. Chairman, honorable deputies: Democracy and consultation are our national option which Jordan has adopted as a course of rule and a way of life to achieve our aspired objectives. Needless to say, this government believes in democracy and works to entrench it and to firmly establish its traditions. It believes that purposeful and continued dialogue which transcends personal interests will be our constant guide and guarantee for the best. Without any hesitation, this government will remain in constant consultation and dialogue with you over all important issues. The government believes that any decision that affects the nation's interests and concerns its issues must be built on a substantial degree of free discussion and consultation between the executive and legislative authorities. Of course, this will take place if a vote of confidence is given.

Your Excellency the House of Representatives Speaker, honorable deputies: Some honorable deputies have said that the government has breached the Constitution by asking that you regard the king's speech from the throne as its policy statement. We affirm that the government has complied with constitutional legitimacy and acted in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Article 54 of the Constitution.

This paragraph stipulates that it is imperative that the king's speech from the throne is the government's policy statement, and that the government cannot choose otherwise. This is not a mere explanation or interpretation by the government; it is an imperative matter as is affirmed by the constitution. It was also affirmed by explanatory decision No. 3 issued by the High Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution on 28 November 1991. This decision left no room for interpretation and explanation. You are well aware that an explanatory decision is part of both the Constitution and its binding provisions, so there is no room for any other explanation or interpretation, in accordance with Article 122 of the Constitution.

The decision made by your esteemed House, which agreed on regarding the king's speech from the throne as the government's policy statement, has honestly complied with the provisions of the Constitution.

As for the description by some brother deputies that the government is a transitional government, I would like to affirm to you that there is nothing in the Constitution that describes the government as being a transitional or nontransitional one. However, and as you all know, a government may be entrusted with carrying out specific tasks. The king's letter of designation said that this government has great and numerous national tasks to carry out. These tasks included holding the 1993 parliamentary elections based on full equality of rights and duties for all members of the one Jordanian family, safeguarding human rights and dignity, caring for the people in terms of education, culture, health, environment, and training, enhancing the homeland's ability to confront challenges and dangers, working to resume inter-Arab dialogue, achieving Arab understanding and accord, and building Arab relations on sound and solid bases so as to confront the challenges facing our glorious nation. These tasks also include continuing the march of a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace, and coordinating with our Palestinian brothers and the concerned Arabs in order to reach a comprehensive and just solution accepted and protected by future generations.

This clearly shows that the holding of elections was one of numerous tasks and responsibilities assigned to the government; it was not the government's only task.

As for the remarks by some honorable deputies that the government should have tendered its resignation after holding the elections, the government did not breach any constitutional article or norm and did not conflict with the democratic tendency because it asked the House of Representatives for a vote of confidence. We say this, knowing that we respect other interpretations which were expressed by some honorable deputies. At any rate, it is a matter of interpretation. In the final analysis, there is absolutely no encroachment on the democratic march because the government asked for a vote of confidence by your esteemed House.

Concerning the remarks that the government did not hold consultations or a dialogue with the deputies on its formation and reshuffle, as you know, the government was formed at a time when the former House of Representatives was not in session and after it had concluded its last ordinary session. The former House was not later called to hold an extraordinary session. This made it difficult to hold any consultations with the former deputies on the formation of a cabinet.

As for my recent meetings with the deputies from various parliamentary blocs of your esteemed House prior to the recent cabinet reshuffle, you are aware that the discussions we held were a general explanation of the homeland's political, economic, financial, and administrative issues in order to brief the deputies on these vital issues, and not to reshuffle the cabinet. This was not yet decided when these meetings were held. My discussions with you have been, and will remain, based on my full belief in the principles of freedom and powersharing, and that decisions have to be made by a group of people, not by an individual.

The failure to include the honorable deputies in the cabinet reshuffle is due to the tendency imposed by both the experiment and the supreme national interest, namely, the need to maintain the separation between the branches of authority and to give the deputies sufficient dedication to their parliamentary responsibilities in terms of legislation and monitoring the executive authority. This was only an interpretation which will be favorably or unfavorably judged in the near future.

Since the first day of its formation, the government had embarked on sound planning for the 1993 parliamentary elections. It sought to create a fair, free, and democratic climate, with the participation of all the sons of the homeland, in light of political pluralism and the rule of law.

The amendment of the Election Law, by endorsing the one-man, one-vote principle, was in line with the provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution and the principles of the National Charter, which affirm that all citizens have equal rights and duties. The amendment also came after a thorough debate among politicians, intellectuals, journalists, and figures representing all shades of the party and political spectrum. The amendment was also a response to popular demand that was crowned by a royal decree, announced in a royal letter, accepting the resignation of the first government to be formed under the previous House of Representatives. This was done out of eagerness to achieve the principle of equality stipulated in the Constitution.

As you know, the government's activities are monitored by your esteemed House and by the judicial branch. Evaluating the circumstances and issuing temporary laws in line with the provisions of Article 94 of the Constitution—which allows the Cabinet to issue such laws—is an authority that is reconsidered by the judiciary branch and the House of Representatives when these laws are referred to the House of Representatives. Legislation in Jordan gives the Higher Court of Justice, under its law of 1992, the right to suspend the implementation of any temporary law if anyone who was harmed by this law contests, provided the court ascertains this. However, no one has contested it. Does silence then not mean consent?

As for dissolving the 11th House of Representatives, it was a step in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Article 43 of the Constitution. The House of Representatives was not in session. The calling of the House of Representatives into session should be on 1 November every year, in accordance with the provisions of Article 78 of the Constitution. This would have created some sort of contradiction and overlap in the dates assigned to the election measures for the new House. This applies to nomination for membership and the date of the general elections, which was on 8 November 1993. Therefore, it was not possible to call the House into session for its ordinary term.

As for the election measures, the government implemented the provisions of the Election Law of 1986 and its amendments in letter and spirit, without allowing any violations or departure from the principle of legitimacy. The government did this to stress the principle of the rule of law and to ensure fair elections and the neutrality of the government. The elections were fair and free, in the full sense of these words and as His Majesty King Husayn wanted. The result of this is the election of your esteemed House.

With regard to what some of the honorable deputies mentioned about duplicate names, this was discovered and announced by the Interior Ministry at an early stage. It did all it could to address this situation. Also, some deputies mentioned that voting was done publicly, even by educated people, at some polling centers. This practice was at the request of some candidates, whether they won or lost. It was not at the request of government agencies.

I assure you that all measures pertaining to the election process, starting with registration and ending with the announcement of the results, were carried out in accordance with standard procedure and the law. I would like to note

here that judges were members on all the central committees and the vote-counting committees in the governorates. This is in line with the provisions of the law.

I am confident that the contestation committees, formed by your esteemed House, will confirm what I have said. The government has referred to your esteemed House the temporary law of elections for review and to adopt a proper decision on it. The government will cooperate with your esteemed House to arrive at a modern electoral law that meets most of our ambitions, particularly with regard to rearranging election districts and simplifying procedures for registration, objection, and voting, as well as adopting a national number for this purpose. So far, a national number has been established for more than 75 percent of the population.

As for what some esteemed deputies noted about Article 2 of the Constitution, which stipulates that Islam is the religion of the state, and how this reflects on laws and legislation, the government affirms its adherence to the policy endorsed by the Jordanian National Charter, in which all Jordanian political forces took part, including the Islamic movement. This policy says that Islamic law is the main source of legislation. The government shall adhere to the principles of the National Charter, stressing that Jordan's civil law—the most important law that organizes the people's affairs—is derived from Islamic law. It is a unique Jordanian model that was adopted by some Arab and Islamic states. This is in addition to other laws of civil affairs, which are fully based on Islamic laws.

Regarding some honorable deputies' demand for modernizing the by-laws of the House of Representatives, we can say that it is your honorable House that enjoys such powers in accordance with the provisions of Article 83 of the Constitution and that the government supports and blesses this trend.

Mr. Chairman, honorable deputies: The government has listened attentively and with appreciation to all your ideas, observations, fears, and aspirations pertaining to the peace process. The government realizes that peace needs as much preparation and funding as war needs. Some honorable deputies wondered why Israel accepted the peace process at this difficult time that faces our Arab and Islamic nation. They concluded that peace would amount to surrender. I heard some honorable deputies stressing the need to refuse to normalize relations before regaining rights. They also cast doubts on the feasibility of the resolutions of the United Nations, which came under the control of one superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Anyone considering the situation of the Arab and Islamic world will see phenomena of backwardness, starvation, wars, fighting, and huge differences in living standards. We, as well as you, can produce scientific reports and evidence of deterioration and backwardness in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world. Everyone is a guardian of the people, and he is concerned with the future of his sons and is seeking to bring them up and leave them to a time that is free of starvation, fear, and destruction. Therefore, he is concerned about the nation's situation. Is Jordan guilty and responsible for that?

We should not forget that this proud country under its enlightened leadership, the descendant of the Hashemite family, has never refrained from offering as much as it could to its nation. Therefore, it was a haven for refugees fleeing killing and humiliation and seeking bread. We also were among states which took part in all the Islamic, regional, and Arab institutions. We have spared no effort to effectively take part in them or contribute to their budgets. We also shared the concerns of our Arab and Islamic nation, and we offered as much assistance and support as we could. We paid large sums of money that burdened our budgets and we offered sacrifices that exposed us to criticism, attacks, and mistakes. Does anyone of you remember any case in which we first inflicted harm or attacked? We took the initiative and offered peace and reconciliation with the brothers when there were differences and estrangement. We did not hesitate to extend our hands to all those who demonstrated a desire for understanding. We tried to patch up differences and we also applied our religion's teachings and our ideals, ethics, and good initiative in words and in deed. Jordan is not guilty for the factors that concern the nation and fragment its ranks. On the contrary, our record in this regard is clean.

Regarding peace, we have always been advocates of peace. During an Arab summit conference, the Arabs accepted Resolutions No. 242 and 338 and agreed to seek a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace through these resolutions. Jordan honestly calls for peace because it believes in regaining rights rather than surrendering to the status quo. When the Gulf earthquake ended, as you know, peace became an international and regional demand, and the Madrid formula was drawn up and approved by the Arab parties, whose territories were occupied in 1967. Jordan agreed along with others to give the peace negotiations a chance in order to regain the rights which we demanded, and it was approved by the successive Arab summits.

Peace negotiations need authorized negotiators who will bear the heavy burden and serve their country and their nation. Following a Jordanian national conference at which our country agreed to go ahead with the peace process, the leader of the country honored me by asking me to head a national team of the sons of this country, who were seeking its interests and who undertook that difficult process with extreme zeal and concern about the interests of the homeland and the nation.

Praise be to God, Jordan has never relinquished a right or abandoned interests. After two years of negotiations, an agreement was reached on a joint agenda which only constitutes the beginning of road toward negotiations in accordance with bases that guarantee our rights to our land, to every inch of soil to which we cling, which was usurped when we were in a very dire need of it. Despite

this, we made peace conditional on comprehensiveness on all fronts, and on all major issues that are being discussed, particularly the refugees' rights to repatriation or compensation and to other essential points on the agenda.

Is it reasonable to say no to the return of Jordanian territories? Had we said no to restoring our usurped rights to waters? Can we reject the refugees' rights to repatriation or compensation? If we achieved these things, then would it be reasonable to be in a position that is weaker than the one we are currently experiencing? A just and honorable peace, which guarantees the restoration of all rights, and which is comprehensive on all fronts and includes all issues, is the peace sought by this government. We have buried the alternative homeland theory, and burned its bones. Is this wrong? During the negotiations, we resisted pressures exerted on us. Israel sought to set its own priorities, but we rejected them. We used to coordinate stands with our Arab brethren, to exchange opinions, information, and documents with them, and clarify to them all that what was taking place with us in the coordination of stands. We were the best supporter of our Palestinian brothers, who are part of us, as we are part of them? We are aware of their suffering and the challenges they are facing. We understand their position. We have always helped them and provided them with an umbrella. They are qualified to establish a peace that can restore their rights and guarantee their right to self-determination on their national soil under the leadership they elect.

The government has supported the declaration of principles reached by the PLO, which the Arabs and Muslims authorized to do so and recognized it. This is because we know that it includes achievements that must be safeguarded and improved in the course of time. We offered all possible support for our brothers to enable them to begin the liberation of land, build institutions, and secure needs and services. We have given them freedom of choice. The issues we discussed with the Israelis are only those which enable the brothers to build their institutions and to help them get rid of the hegemony over their economy, which is the result of an occupation which has been resting on their chests and resources for more than 26 years. The peace decision which was endorsed by the successive Jordanian governments, and adopted by this government, is not the possession of this government or of the negotiating delegation. This government will not endorse any agreement until after it gets your approval. We will update you on what is going on so that you will be partners in the decision which will be made by our country, and which will affect our future.

What some deputies said—that the amendment of the election law was a prelude to the peaceful solution—is not true. Does he who say this not believe that such an insinuation is slanderous? We do not have to accuse and chide each other. I remind this deputy to return to his senses and the ethics of Islam. Exhausting our energy after two years of negotiations, in talking about the principle of negotiations itself, after Jordan has made its decision, is a waste of time and efforts. We are required to wage the peace battle together, with one heart and mind, in order to guarantee our rights as much as we can. We promise you to cooperate with you and share with you the making of decisions on this serious matter. [passage omitted]

Government Wins Vote

JN0812193993

Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic, in a linkup with Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic, begins carrying live coverage of the debate on the vote of confidence at the House of Representatives at 1646 GMT on 8 December. The vote of confidence begins at 1835 GMT, following Prime Minister's al-Majali's speech. At 1850 GMT, House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri announces that al-Majali's cabinet has won the vote, reporting the tally as 41 in favor, 29 against, nine abstentions, and one absence.

King Congratulates al-Majali

JN0912074893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Dec 93

["Text" of letter from King Husayn to Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali on 8 December]

[Text] His Excellency, dear brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, our prime minister, may God protect him:

I extend to you an Arab, Hashemite greeting and my deepest appreciation and sincere admiration. I also extend to the Council of Ministers the warmest congratulations on its winning the House of Representatives' vote of confidence.

Ever since I have known you, you have always been worthy of my absolute confidence as a pious son of Jordan, a courageous and honorable creator, and one qualified for every task, duty, and responsibility you were assigned.

I wish the Council of Ministers, which you are heading at this critical, sensitive phase of the country's life, every success in the sincere service and ceaseless, generous sacrifices we expect from you. I extend my appreciation and gratitude to your colleagues who have left the government for the virtuous sacrifices they made and the sincede, honorable, and competent management of institutions.

As I stress to you and your colleagues in the Council of Ministers my absolute confidence in you and my belief that you are able to shoulder responsibility at this critical juncture in the dear country's life, I also wish to stress to you the need to bolster our democratic march and entrench its roots in the pure soil of this homeland. Democracy is our alternative from which there will be no retreat. This requires everyone to build bridges of trust between the executive and legislative branches and establish the foundations for a sensible, rational, objective dialogue on every subject that is presented for

discussion and deliberation. We should proceed from concern for the supreme national interest and from confidence in the nobility of the objectives which we seek to achieve, out of loyalty to the principles and message of the great Arab revolt which we inherited, and commitment to what is dictated upon us by our duty toward our homeland, nation, and the future of our generations to come.

Wishing you and your colleagues in the government all success, I beseech God to help us all perform our responsibilities and serve our dear homeland and glorious nation. I also beseech Him to guide our steps and blessed march on the path of right and success, God willing. Peace of God be upon you.

King's Letter to Speaker

JN0912085893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Dec 93

["Text" of letter from King Husayn to House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri on 8 December]

[Text] Your Excellency dear brother Tahir al-Masri, House of Representatives speaker, may God protect you:

I send to you greetings of confidence, admiration, and appreciation. I congratulate you again on winning the House of Representatives speakership. I also congratulate your colleague members of the House for winning the confidence of Jordanians from various origins which made them reach their representative positions in the 12th House of Representatives.

I have absolute confidence in all Jordanians, who constitute a single, big, glorious family, to which we are proud to belong. They have not let me or themselves down. I beseech God to help me so that I do not let them down at any time in my life. May God reward them and help us shoulder the responsibility and the trust and fulfill our duty with them and toward them and the future generations.

With their farsightedness, the free Jordanians chose the best of those who stood for election. They participated in elections with a big, respectable percentage that reflected their awareness and direction to choose those who are known for their knowledge and rationality and those who shoulder responsibility with sincerity and honor over those with loud voices who do nothing.

Regarding the coming phase in the life of the House of Representatives, I hope that it will be rich with sacrifices and a sense of responsibility. I feel compelled to inform you that in the future, I will leave the reading of the speech from the throne at the opening of parliament to the prime minister. It is, after all, the government's speech and I have always delivered it out of respect for the government that represents the executive branch and the parliament; that is out of respect for the legislative and executive branches alike. I have always believed, and still believe, that this matter does not require any further explanation and there is nothing ambiguous in it. However, with the will of God, I shall from now on return to the traditions of the founding King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn and charge the prime minister with the task of delivering the speech.

Following the proceedings of the House vote of confidence session, I noticed that some deputies, including the woman deputy, spoke at the end of their speeches on the confidence, either for or against granting confidence. I believe this is something wrong which must be noted. How can a deputy say what he thinks of the government before he hears its response to his remarks? Would it not be proper and more objective to leave the matter of granting or withholding confidence or abstaining until the time when the ballot is conducted at the end of the vote of confidence session and after the government can respond to the deputies' remarks or queries and not before?

I hope the brothers in the legislative branch will seek truth and precision in what they say and place the supreme national interest before any other consideration. They should not be provoked by a newspaper article or editorial written by an ignorant, biased, or hired person. The voters' confidence in them is dear and cannot be hurt by an unfounded statement or an insinuation by a rancorous or vindictive person. We should all remember God's words: Ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done. [Koranic verses]

I appreciate the concern for the supreme national interest displayed by the brother members of the House of Representatives, and their interest in representing as well as they can those who elected them. At the same time, I look forward to closing the many gaps in the exercise of our duties on the path of democracy which we have chosen, as we pass through this critical and serious phase in the life of the country, which we all seek to turn into a model country and an example to be emulated near and far. This requires everyone to seek to establish the foundations for the sensible, objective, and calm dialogue that is based on objectivity and commitment to the truth and understanding, on the basis of mutual trust, and respect for each other's viewpoint, and away from selfish interests or things that do not serve the homeland or the citizen.

In conclusion, I thank you and the brother deputies from my position as a guardian of the three branches of power, at head of which is the legislative branch. I also express my pride in you and beseech God Almighty to grant us success. It is God's satisfaction which we seek.

With my greatest appreciation and sincere admiration and my best wishes of success. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Papers React to Government Win in Confidence Vote

Deputies Urged To Understand Peace Gains

JN0912104193 Amman THE STAR in English 9-15 Dec 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The First Test of Endurance"]

[Text] The vote of confidence session that spanned four days this week has captured the nation's senses because it was the first test of endurance for both the Government and the newly-elected Lower House of Parliament.

While the Lower House was able to dispel allegations that it will be a tool in the hands of the Government, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali has managed to win the confidence of the House not because the deputies were "domesticated" but because he earned it.

That lengthy exercise, slow and painstaking as it is, is necessary for the advancement of the democratic process in Jordan. That process, which underwent important challenges during this past summer, appears to have survived. The people can rest assured that the 12th Parliament will be a loyal representative, checking on the Government and making sure that legal, legislative and administrative reforms are kept alive.

Still, Dr al-Majali came under heavy attack by a number of deputies. His Government was responsible for dismissing the previous Parliament and for amending the electoral law in a way that adversely affected national unity. His response to these attacks was to defend his Government's actions, but what matters for all Jordanians is the fact that this Government will be made accountable for its actions—this is the essence of parliamentary democracy.

Now that the confidence test is behind us, our hope is that both the executive and the legislative branches of Government will now work together to enable the country to pass through the difficult challenges that lie ahead. The peace process and the new realities that it will create, the economic conditions, Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the completion of the economic readjustment program are but a few of the challenges that Jordan will be facing in 1994. These require the vigilance of our deputies and the tireless dedication of the Government.

There is no doubt that the Middle East peace will continue to be the main issue in this region during the coming phase. Deputies should not reject the process, or endorse it, before understanding the gains that Jordan stands to make out of it. It is unfair to brand Dr. al-Majali's Government simply because it is involved in negotiations. The issue of Jordan's involvement in the Middle East peace negotiations is a national one that has nothing to do with governments but with national interest. Determining that interest lies with Parliament and that is why it should not be taken lightly.

Most of all, the government will have to focus its attention on honoring its commitments—thos made by Dr. al-Majali in his rebuttal Wednesday evening. It is our belief that if Dr. al-Majali is successful in fulfilling half of his promises, Jordan and Jordanians will be better off.

Jordanians should feel proud that democracy is still alive and healthy. So far our democratic experiment has survived the turmoils brought upon the region. It has been our asset and the guardian of people's rights as citizens. Dr. al-Majali should add to the rich democratic heritage that we have accumulated during the past five years. This is for him to understand and carry out, and for Parliament to be sure that he does.

Vote 'Victory for Democracy'

JN0912124893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Dec 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Cabinet Winning of Vote of Confidence Is Victory For Democracy"]

[Text] Finally, the homeland's higher interest has triumphed and the organic and fateful solidarity between the executive and legislative branches of power has been reaffirmed on the basis of trust and the principle of cooperation, coherence, and integration on the road to serving the homeland and just issues and to serving the citizens with justice and equality.

The cabinet's winning of the vote of confidence from the legislative authority, which represents all sectors of the lofty Jordanian society, is a new historic turning point or a new historic milestone in the march of construction and development to achieve prosperity.

Jordan now sees clear signs that confirm a comprehensive national concern to reinforce the cohesion of the domestic front and protect national unity in terms of behavior, practice, and unshakable faith.

The cabinet's winning of the confidence of the people's representatives after showing willingness to respond to their aspirations and demands to serve and protect the homeland's rights, reaffirms that there is self-evident understanding, objective understanding, and alert consensus within the one Jordanian family to develop and invest the homeland's resources, distribute them justly and equally, and to build production projects in all of Jordan's governorates, and rural and desert areas.

Moreover, the vote of confidence confirms that there is self-evident, objective, and mindful understanding and agreement between the executive and legislative branches of power on administrative development, reinforcing the potentials of all the agricultural, educational, health, cultural, services, and other sectors and raising the efficiency of these potentials to the desired level.

Dr. al-Majali's cabinet's winning of the House of Representatives' confidence, despite what was expressed by the deputies in terms of constructive remarks on the cabinet's performance, to which his excellency the prime

minister responded and clarified what was ambiguous, portends the beginning of an effective, sincere, and serious cooperation between the two branches of power in order to restore Jordan's rights and occupied territories through a comprehensive settlement on the four tracks and based on the resolutions of international legitimacy approved at Arab summits, on the one hand, and to build a strong, impregnable, and capable Jordan under which its lofty people enjoy security, stability, peace, and prosperity, on the other.

We wish both the executive and legislative branches of power success in their performance and continuous luck in achieving the aspirations and hopes of the Jordanian people and in protecting their sovereignty and national independence.

Iraq Executes Citizen for Spying for Kuwait

NC0812200993 Paris AFP in English 1848 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Amman, Dec 8 (AFP)—A Jordanian convicted of spying for Kuwait was executed in Iraq last month, the foreign ministry said Wednesday [8 December].

The Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad said in a telegram to his country's foreign ministry here that 39-year-old 'Imad Na'im Hasan Hamadah, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, was executed on November 3.

The ambassador said he was told by the Iraqi foreign ministry that Hamadah had "confessed to providing Kuwait with economic and security information about Iraq," according to a copy of the telegram obtained by AFP.

Hamadah's body was being kept in the al-Rashid hospital in Baghdad until his family decided where to bury him, it said.

Hamadah, born in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, had studied at the University of al-Basrah in southern Iraq and used to make frequent trips to Iraq where he had a business partner, his family said.

It was the first execution of a Jordanian in Iraq since the beginning of the year, but dozens of Jordanians are jailed in Iraqi prisons for various offenses, a well-informed source told AFP.

Jordan was accused of siding with Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War in which Iraq was driven out of Kuwait after a seven-month occupation.

Officials Opposed to UN Draft Resolution

NC0812132493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Adherence to Resolution 425 has been the concern of the three leaders in Lebanon in confronting the draft resolution submitted to the United Nations to be put to a vote tomorrow. The United States, Russia, and Norway are the countries sponsoring this draft resolution, which ignores the Security Council resolution on an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south and the western al-Biqa'.

For its part, Lebanon has asked its permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Khalil Mikkawi, to oppose this draft resolution. It ordered him to hold contacts with representatives of the Arab and other countries to prevent it from being passed. The draft resolution cites the Madrid peace framework and Resolutions 242 and 338 but does not mention Resolutions 425 or 194. The latter deals with the repatriation of the Palestinians.

This subject plus internal issues and [U.S. Secretary of State] Christopher's tour was the focus of discussions at the meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

The three leaders affirm the need to implement Resolution 425 on unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south and western al-Biqa', as well as rejecting the resettlement of the Palestinians. In addition, they reject unilateral and partial solutions of the Middle East crisis, which cannot be resolved except through a just and comprehensive peace.

Buwayz Notifies Foreign Ambassadors

NC0812154393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has asserted to the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the big powers, the member states of the Security Council, that Lebanon adheres to Resolutions 425 and 194, calling for the Palestinians' repatriation to their homeland. Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] I informed ambassadors of the permanent member states of the Security Council of Lebanon's stance on this issue. I asked them to inform their governments of the need to amend the proposal [the new draft resolution to the UN General Assembly].

The General Assembly is likely to discuss amending previous UN resolutions, including Resolution 194, which calls for the return of the Palestinians to their homeland.

We believe a solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in many countries is perhaps based on several principles, primarily the principle of the right of repatriation, the right at least to return to the Palestinian territories, which will be regained. Lebanon, which is directly concerned with this issue and the resolution, asked the ambassadors of the Security Council's permanent member states to review the situation and drew their attention to this delicate and crucial issue. [end recording]

Buwayz held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry with French Ambassador Michel Chatelais, Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev, Chinese Ambassador Zhu Peiqing, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Vincent Battle, and the British charge d'affaires.

This afternoon, Buwayz received a phone call from his Syrian counterpart in which they discussed the exclusion of Resolution 425 from the U.S. plan. Buwayz also decided to summon the Arab ambassadors tomorrow.

The Russian ambassador seemed to be clinging to the exclusion of Resolution 425, but affirmed the need to implement it to achieve Lebanon's independence and sovereignty within the internationally recognized borders.

Ilichev said: [Begin Ilichev recording] We dealt with pressing regional and international issues. His excellency the minister drew our attention to Resolution 425. We are in no doubt of the need to implement Resolution 425 to secure Lebanon's right to independence and sovereignty within the internationally recognized borders.

We believe that any reconsideration of the Madrid formula will harm the whole peace process. We believe that the draft resolution put forward to the General Assembly consolidates the positive progress in the negotiating process and at the same time contributes to speedy, tangible progress on every track of the Israeli-Arab talks. [end recording]

Information Minister Comments

NC0812204593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] The Cabinet session at B'abda Palace chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi has ended. Our correspondent Yazbik Wahbah has the details:

[Begin Wahbah recording] The Cabinet denounced attempts to exclude Resolution 425 from a recommendation being prepared by the UN General Assembly. The Cabinet stressed the need to continue contacts with the United Nations so that the recommendation unambiguously refers to Resolution 425.

Information Minister Michel Samahah said after the session that the Cabinet did not discuss any resignation by [Economy and Trade] Minister Demerdjian, adding that the government has not (?been informed) of any such resignation.

He said the [administrative] reform issue is over; it was decided last Saturday.

Answering a question, he said the government condemns any act that aims to scorn or encroach on any recognized

sect or religion in Lebanon, especially as the pope is an object of respect for all the Lebanese people.

He added that contacts with the General Labor Federation are continuing to find common denominators that consider the state's resources. [end recording]

'Awn Protests U.S. 'Gift' To Syria

PM0812142393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Commenting on Reports That Lebanon Could Become a U.S. Gift To Syria, 'Awn Says: Lebanon Is Not Spare Land, To Be Given As a Gift"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Former Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that "Lebanon is not spare land and these people are not slaves, to be sold in cattle markets."

Commenting on a report published by AL-HAYAH, attributed to THE WASHINGTON POST, to the effect that a meeting is to be held between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and that the U.S. "gift" to Syria could be to allow it to consolidate "its special relationship" with Lebanon and keep some of its forces on Lebanese territory, General 'Awn said: "After reading what THE WASHINGTON POST published, I hope that it is untrue. But if it is true, I would like to remind the Americans—and they have not forgotten them—of several things, most importantly that Syria is still on the terrorism list and that its engagement in the peace process does not change its essence. The best proof of this is its continued sponsorship of groups of outlaws in Lebanon, whom it identifies by various names."

He added: "We Lebanese refuse to recognize Hizballah's responsibility for security in Lebanon. There is a state responsible for that security, which is Syria, which is securing free movement, armament, and media coverage for the party in question. The Americans know who is responsible for blowing up the Marines center in 1983 and for the two explosions against the U.S. Embassy offices in 'Ayn al-Muraysah and 'Awkar. I emphasize that Hizballah is similar to the al-Sa'iqah organization and other organizations operating in Lebanon. They do not have a definite identity." He went on: "We would remind the Americans of what they said about the ports used for smuggling, especially in northern Lebanon. We would also remind them that those who are going to receive the gift are responsible for most of the mayhem on Lebanese territory before and since 1975 and for undermining and weakening the Lebanese authorities with a view to achieving the basic aim, which is to subordinate Lebanon, impose humiliating and unequal agreements on it, and turn it an object in which to trade in the negotiation market."

He quoted former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker: "We are still keeping Syria on the terrorism list."

'Awn said that "Syria's maneuvers in the negotiations do not grant the Syrian regime any legitimacy to cause us to accept it in Lebanon. We remind all those concerned with this issue in the Middle East crisis that the slave trade ended in the 19th century and that Abraham Lincoln became a symbol and a memorial because he freed the Blacks. So is it permissible to move from trading in individuals to trading in peoples, as is the case in Lebanon? I stress here that Lebanon is not spare land, to be given as a gift, nor are its people slaves to be bought and sold in a cattle market. And the Lebanese, whatever the pressures, will not allow their will to be subservient to anyone."

He added: "They talk about crimes against humanity. If giving Lebanon as a gift to Syria is not a crime against humanity, what is?

"I hope that what was published in THE WASHINGTON POST are rumors circulated by the remnants of the George Bush administration in the United States. I do not imagine that anything like this would run through the Clinton administration's mind."

Replying to a claim by "U.S. officials from the remnants of the Bush administration" that Syria's departure from Lebanon would rock the situation, 'Awn said: "It was Syria that rocked the situation. Damascus ignited the fire and then operated as a fireman. There is no need to remind you about the hostages, where they were held, and where they were freed."

'Awn concluded his statement by saying: "We rejoice with the United States when it rejoices at the return of democracy to Russia and when the famous drug trafficker Pablo Escobar is killed. But we are sad that the United States is supporting in Lebanon a regime appointed by the occupation force and in whose election only 13 percent of Lebanese participated, half of them for and half against. The first and last job of this regime, especially the ruling troika, is to cover up the Syrian occupation and endorse the land decisions."

Al-Asad Receives Warren Christopher, Dennis Ross

JN0912113093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, and Dennis Ross, the overall coordinator of the peace process, at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Mr. Christopher arrived in Damascus this morning.

Christopher: Clinton, al-Asad To Meet

JN0912141793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] A U.S.-Syrian summit between Presidents Bill Clinton and Hafiz al-Asad will be held in Geneva in January. This was announced by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus at a joint news conference with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar a short while ago.

Christopher added that President Clinton views this meeting with President al-Asad as an opportunity to discuss ways to achieve a peace agreement between Israel and Syria on the basis of international resolutions 242 and 338. Christopher also announced that the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations will be resumed in Washington at the end of January or in early February.

Christopher's Efforts, Israeli Actions Viewed

Golan Restoration 'Exactly the Point'

JN0912154693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ahead of his arrival in Damascus today for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed a certain degree of optimism about the possibility of achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Obviously, instructed by President Clinton, the U.S. secretary is exerting relentless efforts to boost the peace process on all fronts of the conflict, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track. Washington does not conceal its anxiety about the deterioration of the situation on the Palestinian scene and the serious difficulties facing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It fears the Washington talks may come to a halt, along with the peace process, as a result of Israel's insistence on giving priority to the implementation of its agreement with the Palestinian side.

Although Christopher urged the Israeli leaders to resume the comprehensive peace process and activate all tracks, Yitzhaq Rabin has not given up his plans to conclude separate deals and to circumvent the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the bases of the Madrid conference. In this regard, he said that the problem with the Syrians is that they adhere to the full restoration of the occupied Golan Heights. This is exactly the point. Israel is looking for the usurpation of at least part of the occupied Arab territories. At every opportunity, Israel has publicly said that it would not give up Jerusalem. Its agreement with the Palestinian side includes nothing to indicate that its troops will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In fact, it only talks about a troop redeployment, while maintaining control over road junctures and border areas with Egypt and Jordan.

After the signing of the Oslo agreement, the Israeli Army escalated manhunt operations against Palestinian strugglers. Meanwhile, the settlers mobilized all their forces and launched large-scale terrorist activities against Arab citizens. The Zionist settlers in the Golan Heights declared their refusal to give up this Syrian territory. To assure them, Yitzhaq Rabin frequently said his government will do its best to avoid giving up all the occupied Golan Heights. Because the UN Security Council resolutions on the Golan Heights are unmistakably free of any ambiguity and deem every Israeli measure to annex them or to change their features null and void, Israel has tried to drag Syria into secret negotiations, away from the Washington talks. This bid by Israel has been categorically rejected by Syria, which stressed that the peace talks must proceed within their original framework and on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the land-for-peace formula.

Syria has unfailingly declared its adherence to a just, comprehensive peace, and stressed its interest in a successful peace process. After his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher said he sensed a real Syrian desire to establish comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Undoubtedly, Syria spares no effort to make the mission of the U.S. secretary successful. However, in the end, it is up to the rulers of Israel to make any headway possible. Peace cannot be made unilaterally. The Israeli side must prove its readiness to implement UN Security Council resolutions and to discuss the outstanding substantial issues with Syria, led by full withdrawal from the Golan.

Christopher and all the world's politicians know Syria cannot relinquish its sovereignty over the Golan Heights or disown 150,000 Syrian Golan refugees, who, up to this moment, are awaiting their return to their homes. Likewise, everyone knows Syria has not only proved its desire to achieve a firm peace, but also presented objective and balanced proposals to build such a peace. It is primarily up to Israel to get the region out of the cycle of war and conflict. The comprehensive, firm, and just peace Syria is proposing is in line with the principles of the international community and the resolutions of the Security Council and meets the world's desire for relaxation.

Syria is eager for peace as much as it eager for the Golan. There is no contradiction between peace and the return of the Golan. The contradiction is between peace and the continued occupation. Peace cannot be built on injustice and oppression, but on justice, right, and international

law. Syria has extended and continues to extend all possible assistance to the U.S. mediator. It remains for Israel to give up its intransigent policies, put an end to the policy of maneuvering and procrastination, publicly declare commitment to Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and give up all the occupied territories in return for a comprehensive, firm peace in the Middle East.

Israel Casts 'Heavy Shadows' on Peace

JN0712211993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[text] Gentlemen: Clashes are going on in the occupied Arab territories, where the Zionist settlers have carried out more acts of violence and destruction and committed new aggressions against the lives of the Arab citizens. It is clear to any observer that the Gaza-Jericho agreement has provided no solution and that such partial, unilateral settlements cannot win the confidence of the Arab masses and lead to true peace in the region.

Despite Christopher's recent tour, Israel's leaders still insist on ignoring and falsifying the facts and propagating unilateral deals. They also deliberately ignore the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. The U.S. secretary of state announced after his talks in Damascus that he had sensed a true Syrian desire to push the peace process forward. Syria and the United States have agreed to exert efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace, without which there will be neither calm nor stability in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, Israeli officials state that they want to freeze the talks on the Syrian track, pending the digestion of their agreement with the Palestinian side. Some of them even set impossible conditions, like Foreign Minister Peres, who urged Syria to define the nature of peace, to approve Israel's security arrangements, and to hold secret negotiations prior to any talk about a limited Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

In light of Israel's intransigence and Tel Aviv rulers' determination to bypass the facts of the conflict and the bases of peace, it is not strange or surprising for the Washington negotiations to founder and for the U.S. secretary of state to carry out salvaging missions from time to time. Tel Aviv rulers do not show any seriousness, and they behave as if the international community were deaf, dumb, and blind, whenever it comes to their practices. They also fragment Security Council resolutions and take the parts that are in line with their ambitions and desire, although these resolutions categorically reject forcible acquiring of other people's lands and urge Israel to carry out a total withdrawal.

The UN Security Council and the General Assembly issued scores of resolutions canceling the annexation of the Golan and urging Israel not to change the nature of the occupied territories and to respect the Fourth Geneva Convention. When it obtained the loan guarantees, Rabin's current government pledged to the United States to halt the building of settlements. The U.S. Administration itself said that the Israeli Government did not comply with its pledges and that it continued to build new settlements and expand existing ones.

All these Israeli actions and practices cast heavy shadows on the peace process and leave Israel with no credibility at all in the eyes of the region's peoples and countries. If Israel's intransigent and deceitful policies continue, the day when any talk about peace will be absurd and an object of ridicule by the region's people will come soon because peace is for nations and there is no value for any agreement that does not attract nations' support.

Hence, Syria has always stuck to a radical, honorable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and has announced on every occasion that honorable peace should be based on justice, should end all forms of injustice and usurpation, and should regain the rights of the refugees and evacuees in their homes, foremost of which is the right to repatriation. In order to entrench such peace, it must be comprehensive on all fronts of the conflict and it must meet the aspirations of the Arab masses.

Syria was not surprised by the growing cycle of violence in the occupied territories, because the Gaza-Jericho agreement has ignored the Palestinians' rights and because it entrenches the Israeli occupation and maintains the Zionist settlements as a daily threat to the Palestinian people's life, honor, bread, and freedom. Peace in the Middle East is impossible to achieve in light of the current Israeli policies. There is no alternative to a tangible Israeli change and to new Israeli concepts. This cannot be realized without a bold and resolute international position and without the United States translating its commitments into concrete facts, publicly announcing what should take place, and publicly denouncing every Israeli practice to hamper the peace process. The Israelis believe that the United States will continue to be biased toward them, regardless of their policies and the extent of their challenge to the authority of the international legitimacy.

'No Alternative' to Land for Peace

JN0812152593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: During his talks with Israeli officials, the U.S. secretary of state asserted that the United States will double its efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East. Asked about Israel's attempts to evade the other tracks of the peace process on the pretext that it should digest the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, he said the United States is committed to achieving a comprehensive and just peace on all fronts of the conflict.

The Americans know very well that the hastily signed Oslo agreement includes many vague points. They know

it will remain a weak agreement, vulnerable to collapse if the peace process is not activated on other tracks, especially the Syrian track. Incidents in Gaza and the West Bank over the past two weeks have reinforced that conviction. Residents of the occupied Arab territories see the agreement as a strike against their aspirations. Instead of achieving the desired peace and preserving dignity, the Israeli Army tightened its siege of cities and villages and killed many citizens. Meanwhile, Zionist settlers went on the rampage, committing indiscriminate sinful actions against residents. They burned houses, destroyed installations and cars, and sent patrols into the streets, the squares, and the crossroads to provoke Palestinian citizens.

From the start, Syria has warned that the Oslo agreement will not lead to peace. It drew the attention of the international community and the two sponsors of the peace process to the dangers of departing from the rules of the Mardid conference and the objective of just and comprehensive peace in the region. It has not done this because it is dissatisfied, but because it is concerned about the peace process and the rights of the Palestinian brothers. Events have confirmed Syria's sound expectations. The agreement faces a crisis. Its implementation faces extremely complicated obstacles.

Israel's rulers believed that through that agreement, which was signed hastily after secret negotiations, they could contain and disavow the requirements of the peace process overall, especially total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Immediately after the agreement was signed, Rabin said publicly that the Syrian-Israeli track would be frozen. Rabin continues to repeat this idea, despite the declining regional and international support for the deal and despite growing Palestinian resistance in the occupied Arab territories.

Anyone following events in the Middle East knows Syria is a cornerstone of the peace process. Any agreement that is not a comprehensive solution will be doomed to failure. Syria must be evaluated not in terms of its area and its population, but in terms of its great pan-Arab role in the region—a role that takes into account Arab rights, safeguards the nation and its sanctities, and refuses to relinquish an inch of its land.

Syria has won the confidence of the nation's masses everywhere as a result of its sacrifices for the Palestine question and the other Arab causes. Damascus' position has become a genuine Arab position throughout the Arab world. Needless to say, Syria has not sought any unilateral solution in order to regain the Golan. Instead, it has always adhered to the unity of the Arab cause, to its firm position, and to the need for a just solution to cover all fronts of the conflict.

Syria has always explained that the unilateral deals Israel offers have no goal other than entrenching the occupation, Judaizing large parts of the occupied territories, and containing the Security Council's resolutions. Despite Syria's warnings, the Palestinian side fell into the trap. This reflected negatively on the overall peace process.

Naturally, saving the foundering peace process requires a return to the rules of the Madrid conference, the objective of comprehensive peace, and the spirit of the Security Council's resolutions. This is the responsibility of the United States, which has pledged to bring about a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement has not laid down the basis for peace. Rather, it has increased the dispute because it lacks justice, departs from the resolutions of international legitimacy, and entrenches the occupation.

There is no alternative to the equation of land for peace. This equation can cancel the occupation, return land to its rightful owners, and involve all parties in efforts to bring about a true, comprehensive, just, and firm peace that cannot be harmed by events or changes.

Firmness Urged Against 'Belligerency'

JN0912093293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Dec 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Israeli Bid To Evade Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. secretary of state continues his tour of the region against the background of stepped-up Israeli terrorism in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon. For, while the U.S. envoy is expressing optimism over the prospects of the peace process, the occupation authorities have continued to perpetrate further murders against our kinfolk, and to reinforce their troops under the guise of protecting settlers.

AL-BA'TH refutes Israeli claims, saying that the pretext of protecting settlements is groundless, arguing that the world community is well aware of the make-up of the Zionist community, particularly with regard to settlements and settlers. The settlements built in Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan are merely a bunch of armed military barracks that have become a supplement to the occupation army, supporting it, and, most often, perpetrating crimes against our defenseless people, similar to those committed by the occupation troops.

The paper adds that this increasingly bloody Zionist terrorism in Palestine and southern Lebanon, which was started ahead of Christopher's tour of the region, is still going on unchecked. The paper affirms that Israel's relentless position on the peace process and its efforts to evade compliance with the relevant UN resolutions are facing an impasse. For the time being, Israel cannot address the efforts currently under way to advance the peace process to allow it to achieve its desired objective, namely, the achievement of comprehensive and full peace in the Middle East.

The paper believes that Israel has thus far continued to pursue partial solutions and separate deals. This means that it is diametrically opposed to the peace process and its objectives.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The world community is fully aware of what is taking place in the occupied territories. It knows quite well that commitment to the peace process and its objectives by Israel, rather than the perpetration of murders and the dispatch of troop reinforcements to the occupied territories would achieve peace and stability.

Addressing the same issue, and under the headline "The Problem Lies With Israel," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Had it actually wanted peace and sought to achieve regional stability, Israel would have responded favorably to the Arab quest for peace and unhesitatingly accepted the full peace for full withdrawal the Arabs are offering. However, the paper says, Israel harbors expansionist ambitions. It seeks to swallow up the occupied territories. Consequently, it will not hesitate to scuttle this unique opportunity for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. That is why Israel is seeking to replace the Madrid conference formula, the Washington talks, and international efforts to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace with phased and partial settlements and separate deals that pose no threats to its settlement and expansionist schemes. As for the Gaza-Jerich accord, it is a separate deal.

TISHRIN adds: Rabin's repeated statements on a possible partial withdrawal from the Golan confirm that Israel is playing with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and substantive issues in the peace process, and attempting to cover up its expansionist ambitions with hollow statements on peace.

The paper affirms that the Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial, and that Syria will neither cede its territory and sovereignty, nor will it disown its kinfolk in the Golan. The paper adds that Syria will not abandon the relevant UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions, which condemned the Israeli annexation of the Golan and deemed it null and void. Nor will Syria succumb to Israeli aggression.

TISHRIN argues that by effecting a complete withdrawal from the Golan, Israel would not be making any concessions. For the territory is Syrian, whereas the Israeli occupation is objectionable. Consequently, the peace Syria is offering in return for withdrawal is extremely important, particularly since it would certainly end the vicious circle of wars and conflict in the Middle East. On top and above all this, Syria's position is clear and frank. It is in harmony with international law, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and U.S. commitments. It cannot present any problem at all. As a matter of fact, the problem lies with the expansionist Israeli policy, which is opposed to withdrawal and to upholding right and justice. Peace is the antithesis of occupation. Likewise, peace and injustice cannot coexist.

Under the headline "Israeli Delusions," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Undoubtedly, the intifadah, which is completing its sixth year with further strength, enhanced self-confidence, and more trust in the ability of its activists to pursue the path of resisting Israeli occupiers, will not allow the spirit of despair and defeatism to plague it. It will overlook the Oslo agreement, which was concluded in secret negotiations. The signatories of this agreement are meant to repress and liquidate this intifadah.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The escalation of intifadah activities and operations only a few days before the date this flawed partial agreement goes into effect is highly significant, particularly since the Palestinians of the occupied territories are opposed to the aforementioned accord. They do not recognize it, and are determined to thwart it and scuttle its consequences.

The paper affirms that the Rabin government's false claims on peace and its alleged desire for peace show it before the entire world community as a government that is hostile to right and justice, and that seeks to realize its ambitions and schemes by brute force.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: If the world community is really concerned about the achievement of security and peace in the region, it must address Israeli belligerency with further seriousness and firmness.

State Minister Qaddur on Banning PKK

TA0712121893 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2020 GMT 6 Dec 93

[Interview with Nasir Qaddur, Syrian state minister for foreign affairs, by Mehmet Ali Birand in Damascus on the "Crossfire" program; date not given—recorded; Qaddur in Arabic with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[Text] [Birand] What does Turkey mean for you? Where does Turkey stand from Damascus' point of view? Is Turkey considered a friend or an enemy?

[Qaddur] Turkey is both a friendly and a neighborly country. We have historical relations and brotherly ties with Turkey. There may be some outstanding issues between us, but we want to have closer relations with Turkey.

[Birand] Turkey is extremely uneasy about its relations with Syria. On the one hand, you say that you consider Turkey a friend and see it as important, and on the other hand, the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorist organization is using Syria. Everybody in Turkey has the same question on his mind: What will Syria do in this regard?

[Qaddur] I want to make a very important announcement on this issue. The PKK has been declared illegal in Syria. The PKK is considered illegal in accordance with

our laws. In brief, the PKK has been banned in Syria. I would like to point out that certain people were detained for engaging in activities on behalf of the PKK, and they are still imprisoned. These people are imprisoned because the PKK is illegal in our country. I would like to point out that we believe that the unity and stability of Turkey will bring unity and stability to the whole region. For this reason, Syria is very sensitive to this issue. We will not permit anything that can endanger Turkey's unity and stability, and therefore it is out of the question for us to give our support to the PKK.

[Birand] Yes, I understand, but on the other hand everybody knows that Abdullah Ocalan resides in Syria, even if he is not there right at this moment. It is a known fact that he has been living in Syria for years. The prime minister of Turkey even gave President Hafiz al-Asad Ocalan's telephone number and home address. Can you say how Syria will act in this regard? What kind of concrete steps will it take?

[Qaddur] Syria has made decisions with regard to the PKK, and it has declared this organization illegal. It is impossible for the PKK to engage in any political activity whatsoever within Syria's borders. The PKK has been banned. I am openly announcing that nobody who engages in terrorist activities against Turkey may stay within the borders of Syria or even pass through Syrian territory. This is a very significant development. Nobody can say that the PKK is being supported by Syria. Some time ago, Turkey asked our assistance in eliminating the PKK terrorist camps from the al-Biqa' Valley. Following its request, we met with the Lebanese Government and secured the closure of the PKK camps. We are doing all this to show Turkey the importance we attach to its stability and territorial integrity.

[Birand] The Turkish public heard of these steps a long time ago. Syria made promises in the past but did not keep them. There is serious skepticism among the Turkish public regarding this issue. Will you extradite Ocalan if you capture him within Syria's borders? The same question applies to militants belonging to the PKK.

[Qaddur] This question is one of legality and legitimacy. Let me put it to you clearly: Ocalan or others may have resided in Syria in the past or even made use of Syrian territories; this I do not know. What I know is that the Syrian leader has given definite instructions to the administration not to show any tolerance toward persons who may cause disorder in Turkey. From now on, the PKK or Ocalan may not make use of or pass through Syrian territory. They may get support from the people of the region, but they will not get any support from Syria.

[Birand] What you are saying right now constitutes a brand new rapprochement with great significance. If I understand you correctly, you are saying that from now on the PKK camps, militants, or leadership will not be able to exist on Syrian territory or pass through Syria and, if caught, will be punished. Is this true?

[Qaddur] Here is the policy of the Syrian Government: We will not allow persons belonging to the PKK to take up arms and cross the border to perpetrate terrorist actions against Turkey, but do not forget that it is not an easy feat to supervise these borders, especially with Turkish soldiers situated there. Meanwhile, we have captured great numbers of PKK members as a result of our having banned the PKK and curtailed its activities. You must agree with me that it impossible to both ban and support this organization simultaneously.

[Birand] Yes, I understand what you are saying, but the Turkish public still asks the same question: Syria has always shown this kind of rapprochement and made such promises, but eventually it returned to its former position. Can you assure me that what you are saying will be implemented and that concrete steps will be taken in that direction?

[Qaddur] Political relations develop through mutual efforts. I have already explained the concrete steps Syria has taken against the PKK. We are fulfilling our share of the deal, and Turkey, in turn, must accept that the source of the problem does not really lie in Syria. Turkey's internal arrangement is very important regarding this issue, and only by taking mutual steps can we achieve any solutions on this issue.

[Birand] What will Syria's reaction be if an independent Kurdistan is established in the region? Will it recognize the new state?

[Qaddur] We are definitely against the establishment of an independent Kurdistan in the region. Such a state cannot be established.

[Birand] Do you not believe that developments in northern Iraq are leading toward an independent Kurdistan?

[Qaddur] The developments in northern Iraq cannot lead to an independent Kurdistan. Furthermore, there is an agreement between the three countries on this issue. The establishment of such a state can disrupt the stability and balance in the region. How can we accept such a thing, when we have Kurds living in our country, too?

[Birand] Do you have a Kurdish problem?

[Qaddur] No, we do not have a Kurdish problem.

[Birand] Does the PKK's expansion in Syria and other countries of the region worry you? Are you concerned that these developments will create problems in your country?

[Qaddur] I am aware that articles regarding this issue appear in the Turkish press. I would like to point out that it is not true that the PKK is expanding in Syria. The PKK cannot expand in our country because we have banned the party's program, but it may get support from the people, and there is no way we can prevent this.

[Birand] What will be your reaction if Turkey launches a military operation in the al-Biqa' Valley, the region where you are most effective?

[Qaddur] I have to tell you honestly that I am against answering hypothetical questions, but nevertheless I would like to inform you that we are not the police force or the inspectors of the al-Biqa' Valley, and I do not believe Turkey is capable of doing such a thing. Turkey is aware that while trying to solve the present issue, it may create another one by conducting such an operation. Turkey cannot do such a thing.

[Birand] I would like to ask you a question that does not relate to the present issue. Does GAP [Southeast Anatolia Project] worry you? Will a powerful Turkey in the region be beneficial or detrimental to you?

[Qaddur] GAP will create better living conditions for the Turkish people, and it does not disturb us at all. I would like to add that if certain irrigation projects within the framework of GAP end up affecting us negatively, then we will certainly be disturbed. There is absolutely no drawback to Turkey's becoming powerful in the region because you are also part of this region and if you become powerful, this will strengthen both the stability in the area as well as your cooperation with us. Instability in Turkey would adversely affect all the countries of the region, including Syria. For this reason, we want to promote our relations and contribute to a powerful Turkey.

[Birand] Is a bargain that envisages exchanging Turkey's water resources for the PKK possible?

[Qaddur] It would be terribly wrong to strike such a bargain. You cannot bargain for stability. I do not want to impose conditions related to the water issue on our incentives to further relations with Turkey. Rapprochements of this nature have no place in our policies. You cannot bargain in order to promote relations, and furthermore, the PKK is not in our pocket, so we are not in a position to offer it to you.

Afghanistan

Uzbek Forces Poised for Attack To Retake Town

NC0812203793 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Kabul, Dec 8 (AFP)—Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam has beefed up an attack force to recapture a northern strategic border town from a rebel faction, diplomatic sources here said Wednesday [8 December].

Shir Khan Bandar is located on the Amu (Oxus) River and provides links to the former Soviet republics in Central Asia.

It was captured by the Afghan Ittihad-i-Islami faction a month ago.

Thousands of Uzbek fighters, along with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, have joined the Uzbek force, and MiG jets were also standing by, the sources said.

The situation in the area was tense, but fighting had yet to break out, the sources said.

Ahmad Shah, a spokesman of the Ittihad-i-Islami, said here that Dostam's bid to wrest control of the town would fail.

Dostam, an ex-communist general who switched over to the side of the Afghan mojahedin before the fall of former President Najibollah's regime in Kabul last year, had given the Ittihad three days to vacate the town.

The deadline has already expired, but the situation has remained calm as a result of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's mediation efforts, government officials here said.

Rabbani's initiative appeared to be working, presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Murad said, expressing hope that no fighting would take place in the north.

Foreign Minister Meets With UN Official on Aid

LD0812191993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpt] This afternoon, Foreign Affairs Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala met, in his office, a UN delegation headed by Mrs. Ellena Martinus, UN director of Asian affairs. During the meeting, the foreign minister expressed his gratitude for the United Nations's humanitarian and economic aid to the people of Afghanistan and added: One of our great aims is providing work and the revival of the economy. I hope that the security situation in the country improves and that the groundwork will be laid for the international agencies to do their work. Because security to a large extent depends on the economy, it is necessary for the United Nations to expand its economic program, and this program should be started in the areas where security is ensured and then slowly be implemented in the rest of the country. Therefore, the existance of the United Nation's [words indistinct] and the reopening of the UN Development Program's Administration and other UN specialty agencies in Afghanistan will not only make UN activities noticeable and effective but will also encourage other agencies and countries to participate in the reconstruction and economic revival of our country.

In response, Mrs. Ellena Martinus expressed pleasure at meeting with the foreign minister and said: We will implement the UN plan for the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan as far as possible; and in many areas, our activities continue in accordance with the needs of the people. Also, we are continuing efforts to secure further financial aid from UN members to finance those programs. [passage omitted]

Explosives Found Near Information Ministry

LD0812161893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] A tragic incident was prevented from taking place today in front of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

A military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reported that 750 grams of plastic explosives, which were put inside cigarettes boxes to be used for killing our compatriots, were discovered and neutralized by personnel of the National Security.

Bangladesh

Awami League To Launch Antigovernment Movement

BK0812153793 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 6 Dec 93 p 1

[By Mobaidur Rahman]

[Text] It has been learned from a reliable source that the president of the opposition Awami League and the leader of the opposition in the parliament, Sheikh Hasina, has decided to launch an all-out movement to dislodge the government. Awami League sources said the party high command is holding consultations with senior leaders regarding the timing of this movement. The party has therefore started strengthening its branch organizations at various levels. A decision in this regard was made yesterday. Several central leaders of the party opined that they have no alternative but to go for a movement. They said the party will suffer a severe setback if they fail to formulate a plan of action by early next year. An influential leader of the Awami League alleged that the government is making large-scale arrests of their leaders and workers under the Anti-Terrorism Act to cripple the party. Many of their workers will become inactive in the near future if the party is unable to prevent these arrests. They said that as the first phase of this movement, the Awami League has brought charges of corruption against the agriculture minister,

Majidul Huq, and his ministry. It has also started collecting documents relating to the corruption indulged in by the ruling party in different sectors. Unconfirmed sources said the Awami League has been able to secure considerable evidence to prove its corruption allegations against the government.

A close aide of Sheikh Hasina said she considers the prevailing situation to be very conducive to the launch of a movement against the government because of the following factors: several thousand industrial workers are likely to be retrenched as the government is planning to hand over a large number of nationalized industrial units to the private sector; many employees of the state-owned Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation and other units under the nationalized sectors have already lost their jobs while several others will be terminated soon; paddy growers are unhappy as they are not getting a fair price for their products due to the fall in rice prices; the price of onions has surpassed all past records; the law and order situation in the country has deterioriated; and terrorism has become rampant in educational institutions.

A high-level source of the Awami League disclosed that at present the greatest plus of the party is the success of its foreign policy. Earlier, the party had ties with a particular country or a particular camp, but now the number of the party's foreign allies has increased. The party high command thus feels encouraged to launch an antigovernment movement. A faction of the Awami League parliamentary party is opposed to the launch of any movement, however. These MP's justify their stand by saying that they have already launched a movement against the government within parliament. They believe that if the movement in the streets intensifies then this parliament may possibly face a premature death. For this reason, they are hesitating in extending their support to the party high command's decision. In fact, the Awami League leaders and workers who are not in the parliament are very militant and are not willing to compromise on the issue of launching an anti-government movement. It has been learned that the number of militant elements within the Awami League is quite high.

At present, the party chief, Sheikh Hasina, is trying to induce all party leaders and workers to launch the movement. She will soon tour different parts of the country along with the central leaders and urge party workers to organize themselves for this. Party sources elaborating on the details of their movement said it would be a militant one and that it would run into direct confrontation with the government. Their programs will include the holding of processions, meetings, rallies, strikes, and sieges.

India

Home Minister Defends Detention of BJP Leaders

BK0812160993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] The center will pursue diligently the case against the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, and others relating to the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. This was stated by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in the Rajya Sabha today. Replying to clarifications sought by members on his statement on the issue earlier, the home minister said all the materials required for evidence in this case will be collected and furnished in the court. Mr. S.B. Chavan reiterated the government's stand that the construction of the temple or the mosque at the disputed site in Ayodhya will depend on the opinion of the Supreme Court, to which the matter has already been referred. He clarified that there is no contradiction on this point in any of the statements made by him or by the prime minister. Mr. Chavan regretted that the BJP is not repenting the demolition of the disputed structure and is trying to project it as a heroic act. Mr. Chavan informed the House that out of the 29 accused 13 persons have to be taken into custody and nine persons including the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad] leader, Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia, have been released on bail.

Earlier, in a statement, the home minister told the House that the special additional chief judicial magistrate of Lucknow had remanded Mr. L.K. Advani and other BJP leaders to judicial custody only after their refusal to furnish personal bonds as per law for release on bail. He urged the members to see the whole issue in the proper perspective. Mr. Chavan added that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] counsel did not object to their release on bail. He said the BJP leaders have been remanded to judicial custody till the 20th of this month.

BJP Protestors Arrested

BK0912032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] There are reports of the arrest of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] workers in Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, and Bhubaneshwar. They were demanding the release of the party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, and other leaders remanded to judicial custody in the Ayodhya case. Most of the BJP workers were arrested when they tried to block traffic or hold dharnas [blockades] in violation of prohibitory orders.

All precautionary measures have been taken in the capital in view of the call given by the BJP for a 12-hour bundh [strike] today. The additional police commissioner of Delhi, Mr. B.N. Singh, told our correspondent that police is prepared to meet any contingency. He said arrangements have been made to ensure that shops and business establishments are not forcibly closed and law and order is maintained. All essential services, including transport, have been excluded from the purview of the bundh.

'Little' Reponse to Strike in Delhi

BK0912090893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] The one-day bundh [strike] called by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in the capital today evoked a

little response. The bundh was called in protest against the detention of the party leaders in connection with the Ayodhya case. No schools and colleges opened in the morning. However, there are reports of closure of shops, trade, and business from some areas in the capital. Life appears to be near normal. The bundh excluded essential services, including water and electricity supply, milk supply, medical services, and public transport. Nothing untoward has so far been reported from any part of Delhi.

The proceedings of the Lok Sabha was stalled again today as the BJP members continued their noisy protest against the detention of Mr. L.K. Advani and other party leaders. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, has adjourned the house till 1400 amid noisy scenes. As soon as the house assembled this morning, the BJP members trooped into the well of the house shouting slogans demanding the withdrawal of cases against their arrested leaders. The speaker urged the protesting members to go back to their seats reminding them that they are violating the dignity of the house.

Government Withdraws Bill on Rights Commission

BK0812054893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha today allowed the government to withdraw the bill on the Human Rights Commission unanimously. The bill has been withdrawn following the promulgation of an ordinance by the president. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the members that the government had to take the help of the ordinance to quell the disinformation campaign by some foreign countries against India on the human rights issue. Earlier, the opposition members criticized the government on the matter, saying it is treating the parliament casually.

The members of the Human Rights Commission met the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The delegation was led by the commission chairman, Mr. Justice Ranganath Mishra. The prime minister assured all the facilities for the proper functioning of the commission. The commission has already started functioning. The principal secretary to the prime minister and the cabinet secretary were present at the meeting besides other high officials.

Six Border Security Troops Killed in Nagaland

BK0812161993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] In Nagaland, six BSF [Border Security Force] personnel were killed and six others critically wounded today when suspected extremists ambushed a convoy in Zunhebeto District. According to PTI, the convoy was proceeding to (Aguhathu) from Zunhebeto.

Commentary Sees Prospects for Economic Growth

BK0912132493 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Commentary by O.P. Pandit: "Indian Economy Poised for Growth"]

[Text] India has made big strides in the liberalization of economy, systematically initiated since the middle of 1991. The desired results of the economic transformation in full measure however will be realized only when the structural reform process is well under way and the functional groups have adjusted themselves to the change. The very fact of smooth implementation of economic reforms in a number of sectors despite a series of problems and their dimensions is in itself a significant achievement as it establishes their workability. A test of the success of the new policy is the investors' tremendous confidence and the consequent flow of foreign private investment. The direct foreign investment has crossed $1 billion mark. The International Financial Corporation, the private lending arms of the World Bank, has also stepped up its exposure to India from about $90 million in 1992-93 to about $200 million in this financial year.

The economy has been showing an unmistakable sign of recovery since early this year. As per advanced estimates of the Central Statistical Organization, the growth in the GDP in 1992-93 is likely to be about 4.2 percent as compared to 1.2 percent during 1991-92. GDP from the agriculture, industry and services sector has been estimated to grow by 4.3, 3.8, and 4.3 percent respectively. Inflation during 1992-93 has been seven percent which is substantially lower than the previous year's figures of 13.6 percent. The document says that inflation would have been lower by about two percent in 1992-93 but for the 18 percent hike in the administrated prices of petroleum products in September 1992.

Agricultural production during 1992-93 has improved. Food grain production in 1992-93 has been estimated to reach over 180 million tonnes. This would mean a 7.9 percent growth of food grain production. Oil seed production has been estimated to be about 21.2 million tonnes, representing a growth of 15.8 percent over 1991-92. Likewise, cotton production has been estimated to be about 12 million bales which is 22 percent higher than the production of 1991-92. Agriculture has grown at more or less the targeted rate.

Although the scenario on the industrial sector has not been as good as on the agricultural front, the latest trend and index of industrial production indicates a slow recovery with industrial production showing an increase of 1.3 percent in 1992-93. This compares favorably with the negative growth of 0.1 percent during the previous year.

Manufacturing production which had a weight of 77 percent with the index of industrial production has grown by 0.8 percent during 1992-93 as compared to a decline of 1.7 percent in the previous year. The rise of

wholesale price index of all commodities has been seven percent in 1992-93 as compared to 13.6 percent in 1991-92. This slowdown in the overall inflation rate is mainly due to a decrease in the prices of primary articles. The price index of primary articles which went up about 16 percent in 1991-92 increased at such a lower rate of about three percent during 1992-93.

The current trends in the economy coupled with 1993 budget proposals for industrial recovery further provide perception of an improvement in the overall growth of economy in 1993-94. If monsoon turns out to be reasonably good, agricultural production can grow by about four percent in 1993-94. Industrial production, though hesitant, is already showing signs of revival. The current revival of industrial production is attributed to the liberalization measures taken earlier.

The impact of 1993-94 budget proposals, especially those pertaining to full convertibility of the rupee, sizable across-the-board deduction in excise and customs duties, reduction in lending rates, and increased availability of funds through reduction in statutory liquidity ratio and cash reserve ratio would further contribute to the resurgence of industrial activity. Against this background it is reasonable to expect industrial production to grow by about six percent during 1993-94 as against an estimated growth of 1.3 percent in 1992-93.

The inflation rate which is currently running around seven percent is likely to decline to five percent during 1993-94. This expectation is based on the assumption that growth in broad money will be contained at 12 percent as compared to 14.6 percent in 1992-93.

On the balance of payment front, the situation would depend a great deal on the growth of exports. Unless exports grow at a rate of 13 to 15 percent during 1993-94, managing the balance of payment may be somewhat difficult even with the present comfortable foreign exchange reserve of over $6 billion.

Iran

Iraq's Proposals on POW's Welcomed

LD0912113593 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—An official here Thursday [9 December] said Iran welcomes Iraq's proposals for the final settlement of the issue of prisoners of war and those missing in action through cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Head of the commission in charge of the POWs affairs 'Ali Nazaran stressed that Iran had repeatedly proposed settlement of the issue through ICRC. However, he added, while a spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry in his recent interview denied presence of Iranian POWs in Iraq, Iranian authorities confirmed presence of more than 8,000 Iranian P.O.W.s in Iraq on the basis of available documents.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry last Monday, following Nazaran's interview, called for serious steps by Iran for the final settlement of the issue of POWs and MIAs through cooperation of ICRC.

MKO Claims Base Attacked by Iran

LD0812220993 Tehran IRNA in English 2142 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The 'Revolutionary Voice of Iraq', quoted the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq outfit (MKO) today as saying that a base of theirs near Baghdad named 'Ashraf' had been attacked by Iran.

The MKO in their press release were silent when or how the reported attack was made.

The clandestine radio operating from somewhere inside Iraq said that by publishing such reports the MKO intends to insinuate that Iraq is no longer safe for its presence and that grounds should be paved for their exit from that country.

Two weeks ago on the eve of the hijacking of an Iranian passenger plane to Basra in southern Iraq the MKO had said that the Islamic Republic had attacked one of its bases in Iraq.

The Ashraf base is 65 kilometers from Baghdad and Iraq has not yet published any report in relation to either attack as claimed by the MKO, known popularly as the Monafeqin (hypocrites).

A Muslim group in Iraq, two weeks ago, assumed the responsibility for attacking the MKO base. The group said that it had done so by way of punishing them for collaborating with the secret police of Iraq in suppressing the popular uprising in that country in 1991.

According to the 'Revolutionary Voice of Iraq' the Iraqi regime has denied exit permit to MKO ringleader Mas'ud Rajavi and other top terrorists of his gang that are still in that country.

Maryam Qajar Azdanlu, the new wife of Rajavi fled to Paris in the wake of her separation from the grouplet last month. A group of reportedly 300 MKO members followed her to France.

Pakistani Prime Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With President

LD0812182693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held their official talks this afternoon, when they discussed the ways for expanding cooperation between the two neighboring countries, the issues of the world of Islam, projects for transfer of gas to Pakistan, the completion of the Kerman-Zahedan railway, the construction of a refinery in

Pakistan, mutual cooperation on setting up a weaving factory, cooperation between the two countries' border forces to fight the death-merchants [drug traffickers], and other fields for the expansion of political-economic cooperation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked that choosing Iran as the first state to be visited by the Pakistani prime minister after her election indicates the importance the Pakistani authorities accord to the expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

He added: The actual implementation of the agreements reached calls for further efforts by the officials of Iran and Pakistan, especially the members of the two countries' joint committee.

The president expressed concern over the problems of the world of Islam and said: The world of Islam is capable of assuming a more active role to help resolve those problems and alleviate the suffering of Muslims by exchanging views and making further efforts. [passage omitted] The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to work toward the realization of that with the help of other Islamic states. [passage omitted]

Then, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, expressing her pleasure over her visit to our country, said that the objective for this visit is to follow up on the implementation of agreements reached in her last visit to Iran. [passage omitted] Stressing the importance of the expansion of the two countries' ties, especially in the technical and industrial fields, shipbuilding and aircraft manufacture, transfer of gas from Iran to Pakistan, and construction of a sugar refinery in Iran, she said that the formation of the high-ranking delegation that is accompanying her during this visit indicates that the two countries will be able to carry out fruitful talks in all the fields of mutual interest and achieve desirable results.

Mrs. Bhutto, thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policy regarding the issues of the world of Islam, referred to the Kashmir issue and said: We hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its humanitarian efforts as before for the purpose of resolving that problem.

Condemning the genocide against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Pakistani prime minister said: Pakistan supports the aspirations of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other areas and welcomes Iran's proposal for Islamic states to send peacekeeping forces to Bosnian-Herzegovina.

Bhutto's Remarks Cited

BK0912121193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto exchanged views with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran yesterday evening on bilateral, regional, and international matters of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, Prime Minister's Special Assistant Shahid Hassan, and the foreign secretary assisted the prime minister at the talks, whereas Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and other ministers assisted the Iranian president. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Your decision to select Iran for your foreign visit reflects the deep historic ties between the two fraternal countries. He said: The level of the delegation accompanying you also indicates the depth of your interest in promoting cooperation between Pakistan and Iran. He expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries will be further strengthened and stabilized and both will benefit from the experiences of each other.

Benazir Bhutto said before this she had visited Iran in 1990 and held detailed talks with Iranian leaders. She said the purpose of her current visit is to promote further the existing ties between the two fraternal countries.

Radio Pakistan's special representative Samad Khan says during the talks both sides also reviewed the scope for launching joint ventures, especially in the power sector. The Iranian president expressed concern over the situation in the Islamic world, especially in Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. The prime minister also visited the tomb of Iman Khomeyni at (Bahist-e Ghaira), offered prayers, and paid a floral tribute.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan is deeply concerned with the situation in occupied Kashmir, especially the gross human rights violations committed by Indian troops to supress the struggle of the Kashmiris for their right to self-determination and other acts of atrocities. In an interview with the Iranian English daily TEHRAN TIMES, she said the Indian troops have massacred more than 15,000 people, but the sequence of atrocities is still continuing in occupied Kashmir. She said Pakistan will hold talks with India on the Kashmir issue and India has expressed its willingness to discuss the issue as a separate item on the agenda prior to the talks. The prime minister appreciated Iranian support on the Kashmir question. She said Pakistan welcomes the mediation offered by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to resolve the Kashmir issue and will be thankful to Iran for any role played in this regard.

Replying to a question on the nuclear issue, the prime minister said Pakistan's stand on this issue is clear and unambiguous. Our nculear program is for peaceful purposes. Pakistan has made more than half a dozen proposals toward nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia, including our position that if India signs the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, we will follow suit. However, she said, unfortunately India has not responded to any of these proposals.

On Pakistan's relations with the United States, Benazir Bhutto said the Pressler Amendment is not only discriminatory, but its application was made only on Pakistan as well. Now the Americans themselves are calling it unfair as it failed to fulfill its objectives. It is expected that the

Americans will now take practical steps to end the Pressler Amendment and its effects on Pakistan. She said Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Iran as there is a special place in Pakistan due to its (?location), religion, history, and culture.

On ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], the prime minister said the objective of this organization is to promote cooperation among the region's three countries, six Central Asian states, and Afghanistan. On Afghanistan, Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan wants peace and stability in the war-ravaged country. She said clashes between Afghanistan and Tajikistan should end. She said we are prepared to work with Iran on any proposal to settle the differences between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Bhutto Meets Khamene'i

LD0912122193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The grand leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, received the visiting Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, this morning.

At the meeting in which Vice President Habibi and a number of the cabinet ministers from both countries were present, the grand leader said that good and sincere relations between the Iranian and Pakistani nations and governments enjoyed popular backing.

Referring to tangible and identical views on bilateral, regional, and international issues between the two countries, the eminent leader stressed the need for them to expand their cooperation in scientific fields.

His eminence believed that friendship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan would be everlasting, adding that this friendship was not based on expediency or temporary interests, rather it was a deep and long-standing affair. Such a fact made it imperative that the two countries coordinated their policies on bilateral, regional, and international issues. [passage omitted]

In her turn, the Pakistani Prime Minister said that she was happy to have the opportunity of meeting the grand leader of the Islamic revolution. She also said that common historical, geographic and cultural bonds between Iran and Pakistan were the reason for their friendship and solidarity. [passage omitted]

She also referred to decisive support which the Muslim Iranian nation and government had given to the struggles of the Muslim and oppressed people of Kashmir. She regretted that international law and the resolutions of the United Nations regarding the undeniable rights of the people of Kashmir were overlooked. [passage omitted]

In conclusion Ms. Bhutto said she was in need of good prayers of the guardian of the cause of muslims [Khamene'i] and said that as a Muslim she believed in the power of prayer. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Cooperation With Pakistan

LD0812184793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1620 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, heading a delegation, arrived in Iran today. [passage omitted]

From the political aspect, Tehran and Islamabad's foreign policies regarding regional issues are in line and coordinated. Both countries believe that regional security should be achieved by the countries of the region. On the crises and problems in the world of Islam, particularly the Afghan and Bosnian crises, the two countries have adopted a joint and coordinated policy. On the internal war in Afghanistan, Tehran and Islamabad have always stressed the point that, before anything else, the existing differences should be solved by the jihad groups themselves and that power-sharing by all groups should be taken into consideration. In that respect, Tehran and Islamabad, while following the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, have acted repeatedly as mediators. With respect to the Bosnian crisis the two countries have called for the restoration of the rights of Muslims and the end to sanctions against Bosnia.

The pressure and sanctions exerted on the two countries by the United States has caused further coordination between the foreign policies of Tehran and Islamabad. America intends to impose its views on the two countries, but Iran and Pakistan are not prepared to surrender to U.S.-imposed policies under any circumstances. That is why Washington has repeatedly accused Tehran and Islamabad of terrorism and the possession of nuclear weapons and has imposed some sanctions against them. But the unity between Tehran and Islamabad has made the American sanctions ineffectual. [passage omitted]

Iran and Pakistan have both embarked on economic reforms to achieve economic progress and it seems necessary that the two countries should cooperate with each other, especially since Pakistan has inherited an unstable political period, which has left adverse effects on that country's economic and social situation.

According to the latest reports, Pakistan is currently facing an energy crisis, recession, balance of payments deficit, foreign debts, and shortages of energy resources. The Islamic Republic of Iran can offer effective cooperation in removing such problems.

In any case, it is expected that the visit of Ms. Benazir Bhutto to Tehran opens a new chapter in the two countries' relations and prepares the grounds for the strengthening of relations between the two friendly, neighboring Muslim states.

Relief Aid Sent to Azeri Refugees

LD0812213493 Tehran IRNA in English 2106 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran gifted foodstuffs and clothing to the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, living in various makeshift camps which Iran helped set up across its borders.

Iran's gifts to the Azeris which were distributed Sunday to Tuesday [4-8 December] comprised mainly 50 tons of flour, 102 tons of bread, 30 tons of potatoes, 4,200 packs of foods, 9,700 packs of clothing items, 24,720 kg of plastic bags, 9,651 kg of dates, 1,455 pairs of shoes, 1,264 cans of processed food, 26,467 blankets and 39 large camping tents.

The Islamic Republic has also delegated a medical team to the refugee camps in the Republic of Azerbaijan which last week, offered medical aid and treatment to 2,325 Azeris.

Relief Aid Sent to Afghanistan

LD0812213193 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—A plane-load of Iranian relief aid was flown to Kabul today. Iran's gifts to the people of Afghanistan comprised mainly 700 blankets, seven tons of legumes, plus some dried fruits and several copies of educational books as needed by Afghan students.

An Iranian official in charge of relief aids to the Muslim people of Afghanistan said here Wednesday [8 December] that in light of the approaching cold season more assistance is likely to be sent to the people of Kabul and Mazar Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

Visiting Hungarian Minister Meets President

LD0812163293 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with the Hungarian minister for international economic affairs, Mr. Kadar, this morning.

Enumerating the favorable fields existing for the consolidation of bilateral ties, especially within the framework of the two states' joint commission, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani named lack of balance in the country's trade and economic exchanges as the obstacle existing in the establishment of stable cooperation among them. The president then added that the second five-year economic plan lies in the establishment of balance in trade cooperation with the friendly states, stressing the role of the two countries' joint commission to explore new ways of cooperation.

In the talks, the Hungarian minister for international economic affairs named Iran as one of his country's important economic cooperators, adding that Hungary attaches high significance to its political, scientific, industrial, and agricultural ties with Iran.

He also described as a successful step the establishment of Iran's non-petroleum products exhibition in Hungary, describing it as a good measure to promote the two countries' economic and trade cooperations.

Discusses Trade With Velayati

LD0912152193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text]) The visiting Hungarian minister of external economic relations, Mr. Bela Kadar, and foreign minister, Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, in a meeting Wednesday [8 December] called for increased cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Kadar expressed satisfaction with the agreements reached with Iranian officials on boosting Tehran-Budapest relations. He said that Iran could count on having full cooperation with Budapest in every possible field.

Mr. Velayati pointed to the existing grounds for Tehran-Budapest cooperation and underscored the need for broadening of bilateral relations.

Rushdie-Clinton Meeting Criticized

NC0812171993 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Nov 93 p 14

[Commentary by 'Alireza Rahimi: "The Broken Key"]

[Text] Following his meeting with the U.S. President at the White House on Wednesday [24 November], [Salman] Rushdie said that this meeting was the climax of his campaign to have the sentence for his killing lifted. However, as to why this meeting with Clinton took place at this juncture is worth assessing from its two objectives:

1. In order to overshadow the pitiful performance of Clinton in foreign policy and the domestic economy, and

2. Putting the Rushdie issue once again before international circles and the news circles of the world.

Earlier Rushdie had requested a meeting with George Bush in the course of his presidency which did not materialize, as his request was not granted, due to political and security considerations. However, this time, with the intercession of John Major, Rushdie got the opportunity to meet Clinton. Bush refrained from meeting with Rushdie in order to avoid any further decline in his domestic and international credibility during his political tenure. Clinton met Rushdie in order to overshadow his own lack of credibility which is the result of his erroneous policies.

In his meeting with British Prime Minister Major, Rushdie had asked him to try to have the reward for his execution revoked. He had stressed in the meeting that the potential of the United Nations and the United States had not been tapped in order to have the sentence

of his execution repealed. In the vortex of his fantasies, Rushdie believes that the decree by his eminence the imam is a political order or a religious dispensation that can be ignored or reduced. Therefore, like a drowning person who is taking his last breaths, Rushdie has explored all possible paths to a solution and only two paths entered his mind: the United Nations and the United States.

The White House announced: The meeting with R shdie was an opportunity for U.S. officials to declare their support for freedom of expression. In truth, if the U.S. echelons are supporters of freedom of expression, why have they banned the Egyptian scholar Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman—the elderly and enlightened person (who came to reside in the United States through proper channels)—from speaking in the mosque initially, and later arrested and deported him because they could not stand to hear about his beliefs. What does the White House hierarchy hope to achieve by such blatantly contradictory remarks?

The U.S. and other Western officials who are Rushdie's defenders should realize that the only way to end the Rushdie issue is with the implementation of Imam Khomeyni's decree. Until such time, the honorable and noble Muslim people will continue to feel a sense of obligation and will consider this file open, even though Rushdie's subsequent efforts may be directed toward trying to use the broken key of the United Nations.

In any case, the futile efforts of the governments and international organization will have only one result—their credibility will continue to dwindle in the eyes of the nations and the meager trust that they have in these organizations will be completely destroyed.

TEHRAN TIMES Views UK Motives on Rushdie

LD0912101393 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—The daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Thursday [9 December] said Britain is trying to turn Salman Rushdie issue into a crisis between the west and the world of Islam. "Over the past year, once again the Rushdie issue has come to the limelight through the stratagems of the British security and information service," the editorial in the English daily said. It added that British leaders now believed that with the time ripe for Rushdie to travel to other western countries, through the collaboration of the vast security networks, "they can convert the initial tension between 'Britain' and the 'world of Islam' into a crisis between 'the west' and 'the Islamic Republic of Iran'."

The article further noted that British leaders had in part succeeded in reaching their plan and that the issue was now turning into a crisis between 'the west' and 'the world of Islam.' "The justifications for revering 'the freedom of speech' made by some of the westerners, such as Mr. Clinton and the Belgian envoy, cannot be believed, since everyone remembers how the U.S. drowns any cry for freedom in Latin America and how Belgium chokes any call for a democratic government in Zaire."

The article concluded by saying, "the world of Islam is coming to believe that the west's backing of Rushdie is merely because of his insult on the Holy Prophet (pbuh) of Islam. And this is a source of pity for the entire human community."

IRIB Official Notes New Guidelines

LD0812193093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Mr. Do'a-Gu, the head of the Policy-Making Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced at a news conference today that the council has recently made four decisions for the further guidance of IRIB operations. These include an amendment to an article of an earlier decision regarding the use of music and another concerning the council's new policy on foreign broadcasts.

The head of the council described the most important duty of IRIB as the countering of the cultural onslaught and the enhancement of the people's awareness in this regard. He said: IRIB is duty bound, in the view of the council, to explain the cultural onslaught to the people and indicate ways of countering infiltration by foreign culture.

Continuing the news conference, he referred to the council's new decisions regarding women. He stated: The council has conveyed its decisions to IRIB on the desirable depiction of women. The aim is to take into account the true status of women in the social, political, and cultural arenas. He added: In IRIB programs the status of women with Islamic dress must be maintained. The promotion of the culture of un-Islamic and improper dress—in any form—is undesirable.

Mr. Do'a-Gu explained the duties of the council. Offering some figures regarding program supervision and assessment, he said: Since 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] more than 40,000 hours of television and radio programming have been assessed.

Rafsanjani Praises Reconstruction Work

LD0912132893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered that all the revolutionary, cultural, and developmental activities carried out on the basis of an ideological and social movement was unprecedented in the history of the country and a cause of pride for the system and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president was speaking this morning to a group of directors and officials in charge of the reconstruction of the quake-stricken regions of Gilan Province. He

referred to the devastating destructions of the 1990 earthquake in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, saying: The repair of so much damage in so short a time, appeared a formidable and seemingly impossible task. But, now, thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of the officials and inhabitants of these provinces and the active participation of the banking system, the country has made good advances. And the forces involved in the reconstruction of these regions, by tackling the task collectively and committedly, are today holding their heads high before history and the tolerant people of our country. [passage omitted].

The president expressed the hope that the people will make better use of the facilities and conditions prevailing after reconstruction.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president referred to the natural resources of the country's northern provinces, saying: These regions have great potentials for development because of their God-given resources, their vegetation and water. He added: It is quite clear that dams and roads need to be built there; effective steps need to be taken to prevent the encroachment of the [Caspian] sea and the natural and water resources of these regions need to be utilized correctly. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Discusses Industrial Issues

NC0912084393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri arrived in Mahshahr yesterday afternoon and was warmly welcomed by the people there. After his arrival, the Majles speaker spoke to a gathering of the city's residents. Commenting on the Iranian nation's devotion during the revolution and the imposed war, he said: The noble people in Khuzestan Province, along with the other people in the country, have served Islam and the revolution with their devotion.

Nateq-Nuri also underlined the need for the people to strive along with officials in reconstructing after eight years of imposed war.

The Majles speaker also inspected the petrochemical complex in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni yesterday. Once fully operational, this complex will be able to furnish the raw material needs of 100 factories. Commenting on the significance of this complex in the country's economy, Nateq-Nuri told our correspondent in an interview:

[Begin recording] [Nateq-Nuri] I think that if we are to invest in major and infrastructural projects and to work for a positive outcome in our efforts for self-sufficiency and for reducing our dependency on foreigners, one of the major projects is what we inspected here in the presence of His Excellency Aqazadeh, the esteemed petroleum minister, and of His Excellency Yahyavi, the esteemed chairman of the Majles petroleum commission.

The truth is that the products of this plant will furnish the raw material needs of a large number of the country's industries. The problem that we are facing today is the import of raw materials, and every day they [raw material suppliers] create some difficulty or another for us on items such as tires, plastic, serum, and syringes. In other words, the raw material for whatever plastic product we want to be manufactured will be provided by this complex, God willing. This will end our need for imports and will, God willing, possibly help us to export, too, something that has been envisaged. Therefore, this is a positive step toward self-sufficiency and ending our dependency on foreigners.

[Unidentified correspondent] In view of the facilities that you have referred to, how can these industries be encouraged and the problems that they are facing be solved?

[Nateq-Nuri] One of the methods is through the government's plans, God willing, and fortunately His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president, has a wide outlook, and he usually pays special interest to infrastructural activities. The government should also view such activities with the same wide outlook and consider them as truly infrastructural and similar to projects like our dams and the harnessing of our country's water resources. We in the Majles should also extend the necessary cooperation so that, God willing, the problems faced by these industries will be solved because the major problems that they are facing is either the necessary law or money. But since the investment here [at the petrochemical complex] was well-planned, the gentlemen here will not have such great need from now on. At any rate, it is the Majles and the government that can extend a helping hand to these gentlemen. [end recording]

Minister Announces Aid for Industrial Sector

LD0812204393 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—Some rls. [rials] 1,421 billion is to be injected into the industrial sector in the second five-year development plan (to start next March), Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh said here today.

Nematzadeh said that of the said total, rls. 482 billion is for banking facilities and to make up for the difference in subsidies, rls. 820 billion for semi-finished projects and rls. 110 billion for study and research.

Based on the ministry's programme, he said, the value added of industry would hit 6.2 percent if an estimated rls. 20,000 million is invested by the government and private sector.

Better exploitation, favourable utilization of the present industrial potentials, improving the competetive quality of the country's industrial products in the world markets,

upgrading the society's living standards and environment protection are among major goals to be persued by the industrial sector in the second five-year plan, outlined the minister.

According to Ne'matzadeh 180 research and development units have been set up in the first five-year plan. He added that the units are expected to register a three-fold increase in the second 5-year plan.

He concluded that his ministry is also to promote industrial exports by providing export insurance guarantee, offering credit facilities to the exporters, setting up of permanent exhibitions to put industrial goods on display and activating the non-oil commodities' export expansion committee and trade agencies abroad.

Pakistan

Bhutto Receives Indian Premier's Special Envoy

BK0812025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has told India that it wants a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, the UN resolutions, and the Simla Agreement. This was stated by the prime minister while holding talks with R.L. Bhatia, the Indian prime minister's special envoy, who called on her in Islamabad last evening. The prime minister expressed concern over the continued atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Spokesman: Kashmir To Be 'Core Issue' at Talks

BK0812142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Kashmir issue would be the core issue at talks with India, but repression in occupied Kashmir should be halted to create a conducive atmosphere for the forthcoming foreign secretary-level negotiations between the two countries. This was stated by a spokesman of the Foreign Office while briefing newsmen in Islamabad today. The spokesman said the talks will be difficult, but Pakistan will approach the talks with constructive spirit.

In reply to a question, he said Pakistan would welcome if India came to the negotiations table with an offer which would move toward the direction of justice and peace in Kashmir.

To another question, the spokesman said Japan supports Pakistan's proposal of a five-nation conference on establishing a nuclear-free regime in South Asia and has expressed its willingness to participate in the conference.

India Urged To End 'Repression'

BK0812154493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has urged the Indian Government to end violence and repression by the Indian troops and paramilitary forces in the occupied Kashmir. A Foreign Office spokesman, while briefing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, referred to the reports published in Indian newspapers which speak of martyrdom of a large number of Kashmiris during last one week and baton charge and use of tear gas against thousands of Muslim demonstrators who were marching toward Hazratbal shrine yesterday. The spokesman said the increase in Indian troops brutalities and the use of force to stop the peaceful demonstrators is condemnable. The spokesman particularly condemned the arrest of respected and elder Kashmiri leaders, especially Maulvi Abbas Ali Ansari, Professor Abdul Ghani, and Ghulam Hussain of the All Parties Freedom Conference. The spokesman especially drew attention to the continuing military encounters in which Kashmiris are killed. In addition, prominent Kashmiris and political and religious leaders continue to languish in Indian jails which include Professor Abdul Ghani who was released recently. He was severely beaten up and injured and tortured.

Answering a question, the spokesman said Pakistan will stress on all aspects of Kashmir at the forthcoming India-Pakistan foreign secretary-level talks. The spokesman added it is expected that the Siachen issue will be included in the agenda of talks, but the Jammu and Kashmir will be the core issue.

Further on Spokesman's Comments

BK0912000093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan is holding consultations with Japan, the United States, and other friendly countries to devise an acceptable mechanism to achieve the goal of nonproliferation in South Asia.

A Foreign Office spokesman, answering a question about the foreign secretary's visit to Japan and his talks in Tokyo with Japanese officials, said that Japan has shown interest in participating in a regional conference on nuclear nonproliferation. The conference was proposed by Pakistan. He said the foreign secretary attended the sixth session of the Pakistan-Japan Joint Commission and held talks on bilateral and economic relations. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and arms control issues were also discussed. The spokesman said Pakistan reaffirmed its stance that it is ready to ratify the NPT, provided that India is willing to do so simultaneously.

One Killed by 'Unprovoked' Indian Firing

BK0812023993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] One person was killed and a boy was seriously injured due to unprovoked firing by Indian forces from

across the Line of Control in the Kel and Rawala Kot sectors yesterday. According to reports, the Indian forces fired automatic weapons from near the Line of Control in the Dudial region in Kel sector and in the Satuwal region in Rawala Kot sector.

One Killed in Karachi in Murtaza Bhutto-Linked Unrest

BK0912084693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0829 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Karachi, Dec 9 (AFP)—At least one man died and several vehicles and shops were torched here Thursday [9 December] in violence linked to a strike call by supporters of the jailed Murtaza Bhutto, brother of Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Police and ambulance sources said a youth, 18, was shot dead when masked men fired indiscriminately into the air with Kalashnikov assault rifles in a part of the port city.

Six shops and six vehicles were set on fire as unidentified men tried to enforce a strike called by the Free-Murtaza Bhutto-Committee, police sources said.

Piles of tires and rubbish were also set on fire at different intersections, witnesses said.

Murtaza was arrested on his return home from Syria last month after 16 years of self-exile.

He is being tried at a special court here on several counts of terrorism, including the 1981 hijacking of a Pakistani airliner, which was allegedly carried out by his Al-Zulfikar Organization.

Last week, the proceedings of the court trying Murtaza ended in chaos after his supporters tried to storm the premises, forcing police to use batons and tear gas to hold back the crowd.

Thursday's strike call was given in protest against the police action at the court and possible holding of in-camera trial in jail which Murtaza has said he would boycott.

Bhutto Addresses Nation on Cooperatives Scandal

BK0712154093

[Editorial Report] Islamabad Pakistan Television Network in Urdu, in a linkup with Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu, at 1435 GMT on 7 December begins carrying a 12-minute recorded address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto, who is reading from a teleprompter, begins by saying: "It was our promise that the money of the poor people who were ruined by the biggest fraud committed in this country's history during the previous government era through the cooperative societies will be returned to them by us. Today I am addressing you to fulfill that promise. I am here to return the plundered money." Bhutto then cites immense financial losses suffered by the people belonging to the poor and middle classes by the financial scandal committed through the cooperative societies and promises that her government will not let those involved in the crime go scot free and to recover all funds from them and punish them accordingly. Continuing, Bhutto says soon after assuming the office of prime minister she instructed that plans be formulated to solve the issue, which she described as very complicated. Bhutto says in all 260,000 people were affected by the scandal and their claims amount to 13.5 billion rupees. Bhutto adds that this biggest scandal has also "deeply hurt the country's banking industry."

Bhutto then speaks about legal obstacles to recovering the money from those involved in the scandal and says the government is thinking in terms of introducing new legislation to overcome these obstacles. Bhutto says: "In spite of these difficulties, we have decided to prepare a policy, a program which will be presented to you. This program will be implemented in three phases." Bhutto says "the first phase will be completed on 31 December. During this phase 400 million rupees will be returned to over 60,000 people claiming up to 25,000 rupees each. The reorganization of the Liquidation Board will also be completed during this phase, whose (?leadership) will also be made effective. Many strict measures will be taken for recovering the loans. Action will be initiated under the criminal code procedure against those involved in this scandal." Bhutto adds: "During the second phase, which will be completed by 31 March 1994, 45,000 account holders, each claiming 100,000 rupees, will have their money returned. This way 90 percent of the affected people will have all their money returned. For this purpose, bonds worth about 3.5 billion rupees will be issued. The remaining bonds, which will be worth about 500 million rupees, will be distributed equally among the remaining account holders." Bhutto concludes by saying that the third phase will be completed by next December with liquidation of societies and the distribution of recovered assets equally among big account holders.